ORP5 TRANSFERS PHOSPHATIDYLSERINE TO MITOCHONDRIA AND REGULATES MITOCHONDRIAL CALCIUM UPTAKE AT ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM - MITOCHONDRIA CONTACT SITES

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SUMMARY

Mitochondria are dynamic organelles essential for cell survival whose structural and functional integrity rely on selective and regulated transport of lipids from/to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and across the two mitochondrial membranes. As they are not connected by vesicular transport, the exchange of lipids between ER and mitochondria occurs at sites of close organelle apposition called membrane contact sites. However, the mechanisms and proteins involved in these processes are only beginning to emerge. Here, we show that ORP5/8 mediate non-vesicular transport of Phosphatidylserine (PS) from the ER to mitochondria in mammalian cells. We also show that ER-mitochondria contacts where ORP5/8 reside are physically and functionally linked to the MIB/MICOS complexes that bridge the mitochondrial membranes, cooperating with them to facilitate PS transfer from the ER to the mitochondria. Finally, we show that ORP5 but not ORP8, additionally regulates import of calcium to mitochondria and consequently cell senescence.

KEYWORDS

Membrane contact sites, mitochondria, ORP, lipid transfer, calcium

INTRODUCTION

Vesicular trafficking is the major pathway for transport of proteins and metabolites,

such as lipids, between membranes. However, an alternative route, which is vesicle-

independent, occurs at regions of close inter-organelle membrane proximity (within less

than 30 nm) also called membrane contact sites (Scorrano, De Matteis et al., 2019).

This route is particularly important to preserve membrane composition, integrity and

identity of the intracellular organelles such as the mitochondria that are largely excluded

from the classical vesicle-mediated trafficking pathways. Like other organelles,

mitochondria can be closely associated with the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), the major

site of lipid synthesis and the major intracellular calcium (Ca^{2+}) store. ER membrane

subdomains closely apposed to the mitochondria are called mitochondria-associated ER

membranes (MAMs) and they facilitate the exchange of Ca^{2+} and lipids between the two

organelles (Herrera-Cruz & Simmen, 2017, Tatsuta, Scharwey et al., 2014, Vance,

2014)

Mitochondria are involved in a plethora of cellular processes including energy

production, lipid metabolism, Ca^{2+} homeostasis and apoptosis. To fulfill their numerous

functions, mitochondria need to maintain a defined membrane composition by receiving

essential lipids and lipid precursors from the ER through membrane contact sites

(Giordano, 2018, Vance & Tasseva, 2013).

Increasing lines of evidence suggest that lipid transfer proteins (LTPs) play a major

role in regulating the lipid composition of membranous organelles by facilitating non-

vesicular lipid transport at membrane contact sites. In recent years, several tethering

complexes with lipid transfer activity have been identified at membrane contact sites

between the ER and other intracellular organelles including the plasma membrane (PM)

in yeast as well as in mammalian cells. However, our knowledge of how lipids are

exchanged at ER-mitochondria membrane contact sites remains still rudimentary, and

the LTPs that localize and function at these sites are largely unknown. The best-studied

lipid transfer/tethering complex at ER-mitochondria contact sites is the yeast ER-

mitochondria encounter structure (ERMES) (Kornmann et al 2009, Lang et al 2015) that

bridges the ER and the mitochondrial membranes and also facilitates the exchange

of phospholipids (in particular phosphatidylcholine, PC) between them. In metazoans,

very little is known on how lipids are exchanged at ER-mitochondria membrane

contact sites and about the proteins involved in this process. Some tethers at

mammalian ER-mitochondria contact sites have started to emerge in the past years

(Gatta and Levine 2017), including the Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Uniporter (MCU)–Voltage

Dependent Anion Channel (VDAC)–Glucose Regulated Protein 75 (GRP75)–Inositol

Triphosphate Receptor (IP3R) machinery involved in Ca^{2+} import from the ER to

mitochondria (Rizzuto et al. 2009), the Protein tyrosine phosphatase interacting

protein 51 (PTPIP51)–Vesicle-associated membrane protein-associated protein B

(VAPB) complex (Stoica et al 2014) alteration of which induces defects in ER-

mitochondria tethering and Ca^{2+} exchanges, and Pdzd8, a recently identified

tethering protein and proposed paralog of the ERMES subunit Mmm1, also required

for the regulation of ER-mitochondria contacts and mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake

(Hirabayashi, Kwon et al., 2017). However, none of these proteins has been directly

involved in non-vesicular lipid transport between ER and mitochondrial membranes.

Lately, a mammalian LTP, VPS13A, has been shown to localize at membrane

contact sites including those between ER and mitochondria, but its function in lipid

transport at these sites has not been elucidated yet (Kumar, Leonzino et al., 2018).

The Oxysterol binding protein (OSBP)-related proteins constitute a large family of

LTPs conserved from yeast (Osh) to humans (ORP) and localized to different

subcellular sites, shown in several cases to be membrane contact sites. A common

feature of all ORPs is the presence of an OSBP-related lipid-binding/transfer (ORD)

domain. Most ORP proteins contain a two phenylalanines (FF) in an acidic tract

(FFAT)-motif that binds ER-localized VAP proteins and a pleckstrin homology (PH)

domain that interacts with lipids or proteins in distinct non-ER organelle membranes.

Two members of this family, ORP5 and ORP8, do not contain an FFAT motif but are

directly anchored to the ER through a C-terminal trans-membrane segment. We have

recently shown that ORP5 and ORP8 localize to ER-mitochondria contact sites

where they play a key role in maintaining mitochondrial morphology and respiratory

function (Galmes et al. 2016). ORP5 and ORP8 have been previously shown to

transfer phosphatidylserine (PS) from the cortical ER to the PM, in counter-exchange

with the phosphoinositides Phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI4P) and

Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP$_2$) (Chung et al. 2015; Ghai et al, 2017).

Interestingly, transport of PS occurs also at ER-mitochondria contact sites. Newly

synthesized PS, by the ER-localized PS-Synthase 1 (PSS1), is shuttled from the ER to

the outer mitochondrial membrane (OMM) and from OMM to inner mitochondrial

membrane (IMM) where it is rapidly converted to phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) by the

PS-decarboxylase enzyme PISD (Vance, 1990, Vance & Tasseva, 2013). At the IMM,

PE plays crucial roles in maintaining mitochondrial tubular morphology and therefore in

mitochondrial respiratory functions (Joshi, Thompson et al., 2012, Steenbergen,

Nanowski et al., 2005). Regardless of extensive studies on PS transport between ER

and mitochondria since its first discovery more than 20 years ago (Vance, 1990), the

underlying mechanisms and proteins involved are still elusive.

Membrane contact sites exist also between the OMM and the IMM and are

mediated by the Mitochondrial Intermembrane space Bridging (MIB) and Mitochondrial

Contact sites and Cristae junction Organizing System (MICOS) complexes. The MICOS

complex (composed of seven proteins: Mitofilin, CHCHD3, CHCHD6, APOO, QIL1,

APOOL and MINOS1) is preferentially located at Cristae Junctions (CJ), tubular

structures that connect the IMM to the cristae, and it is necessary for CJ formation,

cristae morphology and mitochondria function (Harner, Korner et al., 2011, Huynen,

Muhlmeister et al., 2016, Ott, Dorsch et al., 2015, Wollweber, von der Malsburg et al.,

2017). The integral IMM protein Mitofilin is the central component of the MICOS

complex and carries a large domain exposed to the mitochondria intermembrane

space (IMS) that interacts with the OMM Sorting and Assembly Machinery (SAM) to

form the MIB complex (Friedman, Mourier et al., 2015, Guarani, McNeill et al., 2015).

The SAM complex is constituted of SAM50 (a pore-forming β-barrel protein),

Metaxin1 and 2, and is involved in the membrane insertion and assembly of

mitochondrial β-barrel proteins, such as VDAC (Hohr, Lindau et al., 2018, Kozjak,

Wiedemann et al., 2003, Kozjak-Pavlovic, Ross et al., 2007) (see cartoon in Figure

10). However, whether and how OMM-IMM contact sites are linked to ER-

mitochondria contacts in mammalian cells is still largely unknown.

Here we show that ORP5 and ORP8 are the LTPs that transfer PS from the ER

to the mitochondria at ER-mitochondria contact sites in mammalian cells. We also

show that ORP5/8 are physically and functionally connected with Sorting Assembly

Machinery 50 (SAM50) and Mitofilin with which they cooperate to facilitate PS

transport from the ER to the mitochondrial membranes and consequently the

synthesis of mitochondrial PE. Finally, we uncover an additional role for ORP5, but not

ORP8, in regulating Ca^{2+} import to mitochondria, through regulation of SAM50-VDAC

protein levels. Our findings reveal a novel link between lipid and Ca^{2+} transport at ER-

mitochondria contact sites and provide mechanistic insight to the specific role of

ORP5 in modulating cellular senescence.

RESULTS

ORP5 and ORP8 transport PS from the ER to the mitochondria at ER-

mitochondria contact sites

We have recently reported that ORP5 and ORP8, shown to transfer lipids at ER-PM

contacts, localize also to ER-mitochondria contact sites (Galmes, Houcine et al., 2016).

However, their role in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contacts still remains to be

established. Taking into account their role in counter-exchanging PS with the PM

phosphoinositides PI4P and PIP_2 at ER-PM contacts (Chung et al. 2015; Ghai et al,

2017), we hypothesized that ORP5 and ORP8 could also mediate PS transport at ER-

mitochondria contact sites.

The ORD domain of ORP8 has been shown to transfer PS (in counter-transport with

PI4P or PIP_2) between liposome membranes *in vitro* (Chung et al. 2015; Ghai et al,

2017). Since PI4P and PIP_2 are not present in mitochondrial membranes it is possible

that at ER-mitochondria contact sites ORP5/8 might transport other phospholipids,

such as PE, back to the ER. However, no study so far has ever addressed the ability

of ORP5 and ORP8 ORD domains (ORD5, ORD8) to transfer other phospholipids

between liposomes *in vitro.* First, to compare and study the role of ORD5 and ORD8

in the transfer of phospholipids *in vitro*, we purified the recombinant ORD5 (aa 265-

703) and ORD8 (aa 328-767) in bacteria (Escherichia coli) (Fig. S1a) and analyzed

their lipid transfer ability by measuring the transport of fluorescent phospholipids (TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE) from donor to acceptor liposomes *in vitro*. Donor liposomes containing fluorescent phospholipids and biotinylated lipids (liposomes composed of 1 mol% TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE, 2 mol% of biotinylated-PE, and 97 mol% POPC) were first immobilized on streptavidin beads and then mixed with acceptor liposomes (composed of 100 mol % POPC) in the presence or absence of ORP5/8 ORD domains (Fig. 1a). After 1 hour at 37°C, acceptor liposomes were recovered from the supernatant and their fluorescence was measured (Fig. 1a). Our results show that both ORD5 and ORD8 transfer PS, but not PC and PE, from donor to acceptor liposomes (Fig. 1b). They also reveal that ORD5 and ORD8 share equivalent abilities to transfer PS *in vitro*. To confirm that fluorescent lipids were indeed transferred to the acceptor liposomes, a fraction of the reaction supernatant was floated on a Nycodenz density gradient by ultracentrifugation and the fluorescence in the top fraction of the gradient (containing floated acceptor liposomes) was measured (Figure S1b). Fluorescence of TopFluor-PS in the acceptor liposomes was maintained after their floatation, confirming its effective transfer between liposomes *in vitro*.

Next, we addressed whether ORP5 and ORP8 could mediate non-vesicular transfer of PS at ER-mitochondria contact sites *in situ*. As the ER-derived PS is the major precursor for mitochondrial PE, if ORP5 and ORP8 mediate non-vesicular transport of PS from the ER to the mitochondria, then their absence should lead to a reduction of mitochondrial PE. To test this, we used Percoll gradient-based subcellular fractionation (Galmes et al. 2016) to isolate pure mitochondria from HeLa cells where ORP5 or ORP8 were transiently silenced by RNAi. We chose to use a transient knockdown as it overcomes the limits and/or compensatory effects on lipid

transport/biosynthetic pathways that other stable approaches could induce. The

purity of mitochondria and of the other subcellular fractions was verified in control,

ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown conditions by western blotting (WB) (Fig. 1c). As

controls for the purity of subcellular fractions, the samples were probed for

cytochrome c as mitochondrial marker and IP3R-3 as a MAM-enriched marker. All

markers were highly enriched in their respective fractions and were absent in the

others. In accord with our previous study (Galmes et al., 2016), ORP5 and ORP8

were enriched in the MAM fraction and absent in the mitochondria fraction of control

cells. On the contrary, they were strongly suppressed in ORP5 and ORP8

knockdown cell lysates and in the respective MAM fractions (Fig. 1c). The PE content

of purified mitochondria from ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown was then analyzed by

mass spectrometry (MS)-based lipidomics, revealing a reduction of PE levels in

mitochondria isolated from ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown cells of 34% and 20%,

respectively, as compared to control cells (Fig. 1d). Interestingly, PE levels of the

total cells were unchanged, indicating a specific effect of ORP5 or ORP8 depletion

on mitochondrial PE.

In subsequent experiments, we measured the levels of mitochondrial PE newly

synthesized from the ER-derived PS by using a radiometric PS-to-PE conversion

assay *in situ* (Shiao, Lupo et al., 1995) in silenced or control HeLa cells (Fig. 1e).

This assay allows the monitoring of PS transfer from the ER to mitochondria by

measuring the levels of radioactive PS and PS-derived PE by thin layer

chromatography (TLC) after 18h of incorporation of radioactive L-[^{3}H(G)]-serine into

the cells. A significant decrease in the levels of newly synthetized PE was found in

ORP5 knockdown and in ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells (Fig. 1e). The

decrease was stronger in ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells, indicating a

cooperative effect of ORP5 and ORP8 in this process. A slight decrease was also

found in ORP8 knockdown cells, although not statistically significant, suggesting a

major role of ORP5 compared to ORP8 in PS transfer at ER-mitochondria contact

sites *in situ*. As [^{3}H]-serine radioactivity could be incorporated to PE also via an

alternative pathway involving sphingosine (Hanada, Nishijima et al., 1992), we next

sought to address the contribution of this pathway to PE labeling, by repeating the

experiments in control and ORP5 knockdown cells in the presence of β-chloro-L-

alanine, an inhibitor of serine palmitoyltransferase (Chen, Born et al., 1993). The PS-

to-PE conversion was not significantly affected in both control (~3% of reduction) and

ORP5 knockdown cells (~9% of reduction). On the contrary, PS-to-PE conversion

was significantly reduced in treated and untreated ORP5 knockdown cells (~17% and

~23% respectively), as compared to control (Fig. 1f). These data show that more

than 90% of serine labeling occurs via PS in HeLa cells, that is in accord with a

previous work in another cell type, the BHK cells, showing that only a minor PE

species are labeled from the sphingosine-PE pathway (Heikinheimo & Somerharju,

1998). Lastly, the decrease in PE could be simply due to a decrease in the protein

levels of PS-decarboxylase (PISD) or in the PS-Synthase 1 (PSS1) enzymes

mediating PS-to-PE conversion on mitochondria or PS synthesis in the ER,

respectively. To exclude this possibility we analyzed the protein levels of PISD and

PSS1 enzymes by WB in ORP5, ORP8, ORP5+ORP8 knockdown cells and

compared them to control cells (Fig. 1g). We found no significant difference but

rather a slight increase in upon ORP5 and/or ORP8 knockdowns. Overall these data

confirm that the reduction in mitochondrial PE induced by depletion of ORP5 is

essentially due to the decrease in PS transfer from the ER to the mitochondria (Fig.

1h).

ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown affect mitochondria morphology and respiratory function but not the abundance of ER-mitochondria contact sites

Even a modest reduction (22-27%) of mitochondrial PE levels in mammalian cells have been shown to profoundly alter the morphology of mitochondrial cristae as well as mitochondria functions (Tasseva, Bai et al., 2013). Thus, the decrease in mitochondrial PE in ORP5 and ORP8 knockdowns is in accord with our previous electron microscopy (EM) observations that knockdown of ORP5 or ORP8 alters the architecture of the cristae, while ER-mitochondria contact sites with normal morphology were still visible (Galmes et al., 2016). However, our previous study did not rule out that these contact sites could be affected in their number/size. To test whether the effects on PS transport at ER-mitochondria contacts were specific of ORP5 and ORP8 loss of function or simply due to a decrease of ER-mitochondria contacts induced by their knockdown, we quantified the abundance of ER-mitochondria contact sites by EM in control and ORP5, ORP8, ORP5+ORP8 knockdown cells. To facilitate the visualization of the ER we transfected the cells with a HRP-KDEL construct (carrying a horseradish peroxidase (HRP) tagged with an ER retention motif) that stains the ER with a dark signal. Our quantifications revealed that ORP5, ORP8 or ORP5+ORP8 knockdowns did not affect the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites (Fig. 2a-2b). These results indicate that ORP5 and ORP8 act exclusively as LTPs and not as tethers (Fig. 1h). Additionally, 52% of mitochondria in ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells display aberrant cristae morphology versus 9% in control cells (Fig. 2a-2c). These defects in cristae morphology were similar to those previously shown in the case of ORP5 and ORP8 individual knockdowns (Galmes et al., 2016). However, the % of mitochondria with altered morphology in ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown cells was higher as

compared to ORP8 knockdown (Galmes et al., 2016), possibly reflecting the stronger

effect of ORP5+ORP8 double-knockdown on PS transport at ER-mitochondria

contact sites. We had previously shown that ORP5 knockdown induced a reduction

in the basal mitochondrial oxygen consumption rate (OCR_{BAS}), indicative of reduced

mitochondria respiratory activity (Galmes et al., 2016). However, it remained still

questioned whether ORP8 could partially compensate the reduced OCR_{BAS} and/or if

this reduction could be exacerbated under metabolic stress conditions. Thus, we

monitored mitochondria OCR in control, in ORP5 and in ORP5+ORP8 double-

knockdown cells in basal and in stress conditions (Fig. 2d). ORP5 knockdown induced a

significant reduction in both OCR_{BAS} (~37%) and OCR upon FCCP treatment (OCR_{FCCP}) (~36%).

Interestingly, the decrease in in OCR_{BAS} and OCR_{FCCP} measured upon ORP5+ORP8

double-knockdown was quite similar to the decrease in ORP5 knockdown. These

data uncover a major role of ORP5 in preserving mitochondrial respiratory activity, in

accord with its major role in PS transfer at ER-mitochondria contact sites.

ER-mitochondria contact sites marked by ORP5/8 are physically connected to

mitochondrial membranes via ORP5/8 interaction with the mitochondrial

intermembrane space bridging (MIB) complex

To investigate whether ORP5/8 localize to specific ER-mitochondria contact site

subdomains we performed a morphological analysis of ORP5 localization by

immuno-EM (IEM) on ultrathin cryosections from HeLa cells transfected with HA-

ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5. The advantage of analyzing ORP5 localization is its

preferential localization to contact sites as compared to ORP8 (Galmes et al. 2016),

which remains also largely present within the reticular ER. Interestingly, the majority

of ORP5 gold particles was found to localize to ER elements in a very close proximity

(86% within 0-100 nm distances, 50% of which within 50 nm) to the CJ (arrow, Fig.

2a-b), tubular structures that connect the IMM to the cristae. To exclude that ORP5

localization near CJ is not a consequence of its distribution throughout the ER

membranes, we sought to determine if other ER proteins have a similar frequency of

proximity to CJ. Thus we compared ORP5 localization to Sec61β, a subunit of the

Sec61 complex involved in protein translocation in the ER, that is present in ER

elements distributed throughout the cells and very little at ER-mitochondria contact

sites (Galmes et al. 2016). Co-immunolabeling of EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-Sec61β and

protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) to stain the ER, confirmed ORP5 localization in ER

elements close to CJ (arrow, Fig. 3c) but not of Sec61β, the bulk of which localized

on ER membranes distant from the CJ (0% within 0-100nm and 69% >200nm

distance) even when close to mitochondria (Fig. 3b and arrowheads in Fig. 3c).

Hence, our results support the conclusion that ORP5 specifically localizes to ER-

mitochondria contact sites closely associated to CJ. Interestingly, in yeast, CJ were

shown to be closely associated to OMM-IMM contact sites tethered by the MICOS

complex (Harner et al., 2011). IEM analysis using Mitofilin-EGFP, an EGFP-tagged

construct of the human orthologue of the central component of the MICOS complex,

confirmed that human Mitofilin, similarly to its yeast orthologue, preferentially

localizes to the IMM in close proximity of CJ and in the cristae that arise from them

(arrow, Fig. 3a). These results suggest that ER-mitochondria contact sites where

ORP5 localizes could be physically connected to the intra-mitochondrial membrane

contact sites near CJ.

To identify specific binding partners of ORP5 at ER-mitochondria contact sites

we carried out a MS-analysis on GFP-pull downs from cells expressing EGFP-ORP5,

EGFP-ORP5ΔPH (an ORP5 mutant lacking the PM-targeting PH domain that is

localized at ER-mitochondria but not at ER-PM contact sites), or EGFP alone as a

control (Fig. 4a). As expected, the highest hit detected in both EGFP-ORP5 and

EGFP-ORP5ΔPH pull-downs was its binding partner ORP8, with which ORP5 forms

a complex at contact sites including MAMs (Chung, Torta et al., 2015, Galmes et al.,

2016). Other major hits comprise several outer mitochondrial membrane proteins

(listed in Fig. 4a), including the mitochondrial outer membrane protein PTPIP51, a

previously reported interacting partner of ORP5 (Galmes et al., 2016).

Interestingly, among these proteins the Sorting Assembly Machinery Subunit 50

(SAM50), a central component of the SAM protein complex involved in the import

and assembly of mitochondria β-barrel proteins in the OMM (Hohr et al., 2018), had

one of the highest scores. SAM50 is part of the Mitochondrial intermembrane space

bridging (MIB) complex, composed of metaxin-1, metaxin-2 and the MICOS complex

that anchors the OMM to the IMM at CJ (Huynen et al., 2016, Ott et al., 2015).

SAM50 is also known to directly bind the central component of the MICOS complex

Mitofilin (Ott et al., 2015). Consistently, Mitofilin was also detected in the MS of

EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP5ΔPH pull-downs (Fig. 4a). Interestingly, SAM50 and

Mitofilin showed a higher interaction score in EGFP-ORP5ΔPH immunoprecipitates,

as compared to EGFP-ORP5. Of note, metaxin-2, another component of the MIB

complex, localized to the outer mitochondrial membrane, was also detected in the

MS of immunoprecipitated EGFP-ORP5ΔPH, whereas its score in the EGFP-ORP5

was lower than the assigned threshold (50) (Fig. 4a). To verify that the

overexpression of ORP5 or ORP5ΔPH did not affect the protein levels of SAM50 and

Mitofilin, WB analysis using anti-actin as loading control was carried out on cells

expressing EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or EGFP alone. Our results show that

neither EGFP-ORP5 nor EGFP-ORP5ΔPH overexpression alters the amount of

SAM50 and Mitofilin proteins as compared to the overexpression of EGFP alone (Fig. S2b).

To confirm ORP5/8 interaction with SAM50 and Mitofilin, GFP-pull down experiments from HeLa cells expressing EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP alone were carried out (Fig. 4b). Consistent with the MS data, endogenous SAM50 and Mitofilin were recovered with both EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP8 but not with EGFP alone, confirming specific interaction of ORP5 and ORP8 with SAM50 and Mitofilin. Of interest, the interaction of SAM50 and Mitofilin with EGFP-ORP5 was stronger than with EGFP-ORP8. To visualize the sites of this interaction we performed confocal imaging of HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5 and stained with anti-Mitofilin antibody, as Mitofilin is the major component of the MICOS complex. We observed strong co-localization of non-cortical ORP5-labeled ER elements (MAMs) and Mitofilin-enriched microdomains on mitochondria (Fig. 4c and S2a), further confirming the physical association of ORP5 and the MIB/MICOS complex at ER-mitochondria contact sites.

Next, to determine the domains involved in the interaction of ORP5 with the MIB/MICOS complex GFP-pull down experiments were carried out from cells expressing EGFP-tagged ORP5 (EGFP-ORP5ΔPH) or ORP8 (EGFP-ORP8ΔPH) PH domain deleted constructs, and compared to the full-length proteins (EGFP-ORP5 and EGFP-ORP8) or to the EGFP alone. In accord with the MS data, the deletion of the PH domain increased ORP5 interaction with SAM50, as compared to the full-length protein (Fig. 4d). In addition, EGFP-ORP8ΔPH interaction with SAM50 was higher than of EGFP-ORP8, although still lower than the interaction of EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or even EGFP-ORP5 with SAM50.

As the PH domain is not required for the interaction with SAM50 we further

investigated the role of the other domains of ORP5 in such interaction by

immunoprecipitating ORP5 deletion mutants for the ORD and the transmembrane

(TM) domains (EGFP-ORP5ΔORD, EGFP-ORP5ΔTM). While the deletion of the

ORD domain did not affect the interaction between ORP5 and SAM50, the deletion of

the TM domain decreased the amount of SAM50 co-immunoprecipitated with ORP5,

indicating that ORP5 should be properly anchored to the ER to localize at ER-

mitochondria contact sites and to interact with SAM50 (Fig. 4d).

To observe ORP5 and SAM50 localization we performed confocal analysis on

cells expressing EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH and stained with an anti-SAM50

antibody to look at the endogenous protein (Fig. 4e). As expected, endogenous

SAM50 localizes on mitochondria in cells stained with Mitotracker and, as previously

shown (Galmes et al., 2016), EGFP-ORP5 localizes to both ER-PM and ER-

mitochondria contact sites while the EGFP-ORP5ΔPH loses its localization to ER-PM

contacts. Both full-length and ΔPH constructs co-localized with endogenous SAM50

at ER elements in contact with mitochondria (Fig. 4e). However, this was more

evident in the case of EGFP-ORP5ΔPH (bottom image, Fig. 4e).

Since ORP5 is not detectable at endogenous levels by microscopy, to assess

ORP5 and SAM50 localization when both proteins are expressed at similar levels, we

generated a C-terminally tagged construct of SAM50 (SAM50-HA) and co-expressed

this construct with EGFP-tagged full-length ORP5 or ORP8 and ΔPH mutant

constructs. First, we verified that SAM50-HA was properly localized to mitochondria

by confocal microscopy (Fig. S2c). Then we co-expressed SAM50-HA together with

EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or EGFP-ORP5is2 (a natural variant of ORP5

deleted of most of its PH domain, K134-V201) (Fig. S2d, S2e, S2f) and in parallel

experiments with EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP-ORP8ΔPH (Fig. S3a, S3b) in HeLa cells and analyzed their localization by confocal microscopy. ORP5-containing ER elements were found in close proximity to SAM50-stained mitochondria. This effect was more prominent in the case of EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or EGFP-ORP5is2 (Fig S2e, S2f), but less evident in the case of EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP-ORP8ΔPH (Fig. S3a, S3b), consistent with the stronger interaction of ORP5 with SAM50 as compared to ORP8. However, we did not observe a shift in the localization of ORP5 from the cortical ER (in the case of full-length ORP5/8) or from the reticular ER (in the case of ORP5/8 ΔPH) to the non-cortical ER in close proximity to mitochondria, as previously shown for both ORP5 and ORP8 when co-expressed with PTPIP51 (Galmes et al 2016). This might be explained by the fact that, while PTPIP51 is a tethering protein that expands ER-mitochondria contact sites when overexpressed, SAM50 does not function as an ER-mitochondria tether.

To test whether the interaction of ORP5 with the MIB complex could facilitate the non-vesicular transfer of PS from the ER to the mitochondrial membranes (and consequently synthesis of mitochondrial PE) we depleted ORP5, SAM50 or Mitofilin alone or in combination by RNAi and analyzed the content in mitochondrial PE newly synthesized from PS using the same radiometric PS-to-PE conversion assay *in situ* described above. Robust knockdown of ORP5, SAM50 or Mitofilin was confirmed by western blotting after 48 hours (Fig. 5a). Analysis of PS-derived newly synthetized PE revealed a significant decrease in PE in ORP5 (Fig. 1d and Fig. 3b) and Mitofilin knockdown cells (Fig. 5b). Moreover, the double-knockdown of ORP5 and Mitofilin had an additive effect, supporting a cooperation of these two proteins in the same process (PS transport/PE synthesis). However, the levels of PE were not changed in SAM50

knockdown cells as compared to control. This can be explained by the fact that

other subunits of the MIB complex (i.e. Mitofilin) might compensate for its

depletion. Indeed, levels of Mitofilin are increased in SAM50 knockdown cells (Fig.

5a). Accordingly, the double-silencing of SAM50 and either ORP5 or Mitofilin had

a significant impact on PE synthesis (Fig. 5b). Moreover, the reduction in PE was

even stronger as compared to the individual knockdowns indicating that disruption

of both a component implicated in a direct transport of PS at ER-mitochondria

contact sites and a component of the OMM-IMM tethering complex has a

significant impact on PE synthesis.

To verify the possibility of an indirect effect of Mitofilin or SAM50 silencing on the

morphology and abundance of ER-mitochondria contacts we carried out a

morphological analysis by conventional EM in all these knockdown conditions and

quantified ER-mitochondria contacts by HRP-KDEL EM (to stain the ER) in Mitofilin

or SAM50 silenced cells. Morphological analysis by conventional EM showed that

transient (48 hours) knockdowns of SAM50 and Mitofilin, as well as double-

knockdowns of ORP5+Mitofilin, ORP5+SAM50 and SAM50+Mitofilin, induce

formation of multilamellar cristae, almost devoid of CJ (Fig. S4a-b), complementing

previous observations obtained by other groups through stable disruption of the

MICOS/MIB functions (Ding, Wu et al., 2015, Ott et al., 2015). However, in all

knockdown conditions analyzed ER-mitochondria contact sites were still present and

their morphology not altered. Quantitative morphological analysis by HRP-KDEL EM

in control and Mitofilin or SAM50 silenced cells confirmed that the abundance of ER-

mitochondria contact sites was not altered by Mitofilin or SAM50 knockdown (Fig. 5c-

d) indicating that the effects on PS-derived PE synthesis were specifically due to

Mitofilin or SAM50 loss of function effects on intra-mitochondrial membrane bridges.

Overall our results indicate that ER-mitochondria contacts where ORP5/8 localize

are physically linked to intra-mitochondria contacts where the components of the

MIB/MICOS complex reside, and this association facilitates the transfer of PS from

the OMM to the IMM for synthesis of PE.

ORP5 additionally regulates VDAC-mediated Ca^{2+} import to mitochondria by

acting on the MIB component SAM50

To get further insights into the functional link between ORP5/8 and the

MIB/MICOS complex we explored whether ORP5 and ORP8 knockdowns might

affect the expression and/or the localization of SAM50 and Mitofilin. Interestingly

when we analyzed cell lysates by WB, we found that SAM50 and Mitofilin protein

expression was significantly and specifically increased in ORP5- but not in ORP8

knockdown cells, as compared to control cells (Fig. 6a-b). The effects of ORP5

silencing were specific for SAM50 and Mitofilin, as other mitochondrial proteins

(Cytochrome c, CV-ATP5A) or proteins of the general ER (PDI) and of the MAMs

(VAPB) were not affected (Fig. S5a). This could also be observed by IF analysis

where the increase in SAM50 staining on mitochondria is specific to ORP5

knockdown (Fig. 6c, S5b-c).

Intriguingly, such increase in SAM50 was accompanied by a dramatic

accumulation in the voltage-dependent anion channel VDAC, a 19-stranded

transmembrane β-barrel protein (Colombini, 2012) that requires SAM50 for its

biogenesis and insertion in the OMM (Hohr et al., 2018). These results suggest that the

accumulation of VDAC protein in ORP5 knockdown cells is due to the parallel

increase of SAM50. Indeed, overexpression of SAM50-HA in control HeLa cells was

sufficient to induce an increase in endogenous VDAC (Fig. S5d). Also, the

simultaneous knockdowns of ORP5 and SAM50 rescued the increase in VDAC,

confirming that its accumulation in ORP5 knockdown cells was due to the

accumulation of SAM50. Interestingly, ORP5 and SAM50 double-knockdown did not

rescue the increased protein levels of Mitofilin (Fig. 6a-b), in accord with the fact that

SAM50 knockdown alone also increased the protein levels of Mitofilin. To verify that

the increase in their protein amounts did not depend on the increase in their

transcripts we quantified the transcript levels of ORP5, SAM50 and the three VDAC

isoforms (VDAC1, 2 and 3) by real-time PCR upon ORP5 or SAM50 knockdown (Fig.

6d, S5e). The quantity of SAM50 and Mitofilin transcripts was unaffected by ORP5

silencing, and VDAC1 transcript levels were even slightly reduced, possibly reflecting

a compensatory mechanism induced by the increase in VDAC protein. Similarly,

VDAC and Mitofilin transcript levels were not affected in the absence of SAM50,

although transcript levels of ORP5 were increased, possibly reflecting a regulatory

mechanism controlled by the levels of SAM50. Overall, these data indicate that

ORP5 knockdown induces an accumulation of SAM50 and VDAC (SAM50-

dependent) proteins in the absence of major effects on the corresponding mRNAs.

To confirm that the accumulation of SAM50-VDAC was indeed due to ORP5

function at ER-mitochondria contact sites and not from indirect effects of ORP5 at

ER-PM contacts we re-expressed EGFP-ORP5is2 (a ORP5 isoform lacking the PH

domain and thus localized at MAMs but not at ER-PM contacts) in Ctrl and ORP5

knockdown cells and analyzed the protein levels of SAM50 and VDAC by WB (Fig.

6e). As a control EGFP alone was transfected. A complete rescue of SAM50 and

VDAC levels was observed in ORP5 knockdown cells transfected with EGFP-

ORP5is2 but not in cells transfected with the EGFP alone. These results confirmed

that the increase in SAM50 and VDAC was the effect of the specific loss of function

of ORP5 at MAMs.

Given the role of ORP5 in regulating levels of mitochondrial PE, it is possible that

the increase in SAM50, and consequently of VDAC, observed in ORP5 knockdown

cells is linked to the decrease in PE on mitochondria membranes. Thus, we

investigated if reducing the levels of mitochondrial PE by knocking down the PS-

decarboxylase PISD, enzyme that converts PS in PE in mitochondria, induces a

similar increase in SAM50-VDAC proteins (Fig. 6f). WB analysis confirmed robust

suppression of PISD and an increase in SAM50 and VDAC, similarly to that observed

upon ORP5 knockdown. These data strongly suggest that the decrease of PE in

ORP5 depleted cells is responsible for the abnormal stabilization of SAM50 and

VDAC in mitochondrial membranes. They also strengthen the importance of having

proper levels of PE to ensure correct turnover and function of mitochondrial protein

complexes.

As VDAC is one of the major mitochondrial players in mediating Ca^{2+} transport

and signaling between ER and mitochondria (Rapizzi, Pinton et al., 2002), we next

investigated if ORP5 knockdown could regulate Ca^{2+} influx from the ER to

mitochondria in living cells. We first used a ratiometric Ca^{2+} indicator selectively

targeted to mitochondria (mt-Pericam) which is based on a circularly permuted yellow

fluorescent protein fused to calmodulin (Nagai, Sawano et al., 2001). Upon binding to

Ca^{2+}, the excitation peak of mt-Pericam shifts from 415 nm to 494 nm while the

emission spectrum remains unchanged around 515 nm, allowing us to quantify rapid

changes in mitochondrial Ca^{2+}. We thus transfected ORP5, ORP8 or Ctrl siRNA-

treated cells with mt-Pericam and then measured mitochondrial Ca^{2+} fluxes, in

response to histamine, by live-cell spinning disk microscopy (Fig. 7a-b). Soon after

the addition of histamine, mt-Pericam fluorescence ratio (488/405) rapidly increased

in all conditions, reflecting the increase in mitochondrial Ca^{2+} influx triggered by the

histamine treatment. However, interestingly, ORP5 knockdown cells showed a

significantly higher increase as compared to ORP8 knockdown and to control cells.

Quantification of the maximum amplitude of the response after histamine treatment

(expressed as R_{max}/R_0, where R is the 488/405 ratio, R_{max} is the maximum

fluorescence ratio after histamine addition and R_0 the basal ratio before histamine

addition) confirmed that ORP5 but not ORP8 silencing induced a statistically relevant

increase of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} influx, triggered by the addition of histamine, as

compared to control cells (Fig. 7b).

Passive entry of Ca^{2+} into mitochondria can be driven by large negative

membrane potential of mitochondria and occurs through the mitochondrial Ca^{2+}

uniporter MCU spanning the IMM (Patron, Raffaello et al., 2013). To be sure that the

increase of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} upon ORP5 knockdown was not indirectly due to a

change of mitochondrial membrane potential, we performed flow cytometric analysis

in ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown cells. Knockdown cells were loaded with the

mitochondrial membrane potential sensitive dye TMRE (Tetramethylrhodamine ethyl

ester), in the presence (or absence) of the mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation

uncoupler CCCP (Carbonyl cyanide 3-chlorophenylhydrazone) to induce membrane

depolarization (Fig. S6a). Neither ORP5 nor ORP8 knockdown altered mitochondrial

membrane potential as compared to control cells, even in presence of CCCP that

strongly decreases TMRE fluorescence intensity (Fig. S6a), showing that the effect of

ORP5 knockdown on Ca^{2+} is not due to a change of mitochondrial membrane

potential.

To further study the role of ORP5 in the regulation of Ca^{2+} homeostasis a parallel

set of experiments was performed using another type of Ca^{2+}-probe, the red

fluorescent genetically encoded Ca^{2+} indicator (R-GECO) and its two variants

selectively-targeted to mitochondria (mito-LAR-GECO) or ER (ER-LAR-GECO) to

respectively measure cytosolic, mitochondrial and ER Ca^{2+} in living cells (Fig. 7c-e).

These experiments confirmed that ORP5 silencing increases mitochondrial Ca^{2+}

uptake (Fig. 7c). The increase in mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake triggered by histamine

treatment was accompanied by a decrease in ER Ca^{2+} and an increase in cytosolic

Ca^{2+} in all conditions (Fig. 7d-e). Interestingly, no statistically relevant differences of

the decrease ER Ca^{2+} were measured between ORP5 silenced and control cells.

This indicates that the effects on mitochondrial Ca^{2+} fluxes observed in ORP5 do not

depend on the modification of ER Ca^{2+} storage or release. An increase in cytosolic Ca^{2+}

was measured in ORP5 and ORP8 silenced cells as compared to control. As this

increase was not specific for ORP5 silencing, it likely reflects a common role of

ORP5/8 in Ca^{2+} homeostasis at ER-PM contact sites, as recently proposed (Pulli,

Lassila et al., 2018).

So far, our data show that the absence of ORP5 increases mitochondrial Ca^{2+}

possibly by acting on the mitochondrial proteins SAM50 and VDAC, supported by the

specific accumulation of these two proteins in the absence of ORP5. To confirm that

the increase of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} in ORP5-silenced cells was indeed dependent on

VDAC and SAM50, we measured mitochondrial Ca^{2+} using mt-Pericam in VDAC- (all

three isoforms), ORP5+VDAC- and ORP5+SAM50- doubly-silenced cells. A

significant decrease in VDAC and SAM50 as well as ORP5 levels was detected by

WB in the corresponding silenced cells (Fig. 8a and Fig. 6a). Even though the

increased level of VDAC protein induced by the absence of ORP5 was not

completely rescued in ORP5+VDAC or ORP5+SAM50 knockdowns, the increase in

mitochondrial Ca^{2+} phenotype was significantly rescued to control levels and partially

rescued in ORP5+VDAC and ORP5+SAM50-silenced cells, respectively (Fig. 8b and

c). Overall, these results demonstrated that ORP5 plays an additional role in

regulating import of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} through regulation of SAM50 and VDAC

proteins.

ORP5 knockdown induces cell senescence in a SAM50-dependent manner

Accumulation of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} has been shown to be involved in both

apoptotic cell death and senescence (permanent cell proliferation arrest) (Wiel,

Lallet-Daher et al., 2014). Interestingly, it has also been shown that ORP5 expression

promotes cell proliferation (Du, Zadoorian et al., 2018). As our data show a new role

of ORP5 in regulating Ca^{2+} import to mitochondria at ER-mitochondria contact sites

(Fig. 8), we were wondering if ORP5 could mediate cellular processes such as

apoptosis and senescence. To address this question, we decided to study both

apoptosis and senescence in ORP5 depleted cells.

For apoptosis, we performed immunofluorescence and stained with anti-cleaved

caspase-3 (to detect apoptotic cells) HeLa cells transfected with control siRNA or

siRNA against ORP5 or ORP8. We also treated the knockdown cells with

staurosporine to induce apoptosis or with DMSO as vehicle control (Fig. S4b).

Quantification of the percentage of cleaved caspase-3 positive cells (% of total cells)

in all conditions showed no significant difference between ORPs knockdown and

control cells (Fig. S6b), even in presence of staurosporine, showing that in these

conditions transient silencing of ORP5/8 does not induce apoptosis.

To study cellular senescence we performed knockdown of ORP5 in MRC5

normal human fibroblasts that are a good model for senescence studies (Ma,

Warnier et al., 2018). We first looked at cell proliferation using crystal violet staining

in both control and ORP5 knockdown cells (Fig. 9a). A significant decrease of the cell

number was detected in ORP5 depleted cells compared to control (Fig. 9a). This

decrease of the cell number in ORP5 knockdown cells could be correlated with an

increase of the Senescence-associated β –galactosidase (SA β-gal) staining as

compared to control (Fig. 9a). Accordingly, these results were corroborated by qRT-

PCR analysis showing a significant increase of the senescence markers p16 and p21

and a significant decrease of the proliferation marker Ki67 in ORP5 knockdown cells

compared to control (Fig. 9b). Because we have shown that ORP5 knockdown

induces an elevation of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} via a SAM50-dependent accumulation of

VDAC, we hypothesized that the induction of senescence in MRC5 cells could also

be due to the effect of ORP5 on SAM50. Thus, we decided to perform a double-

knockdown of ORP5 and SAM50 in MCR5 cells. In accord with our hypothesis, this

double-silencing partially rescued the senescence phenotype found in ORP5

knockdown cells. ORP5+SAM50 double-knockdown cells displayed increased

proliferation and underwent less senescence as compared to ORP5 single

knockdown cells (Fig. 9c). To verify that this effect on cellular senescence was

specific to ORP5, given its role in mitochondria Ca^{2+} regulation, we performed in

parallel a knockdown of ORP8 in MRC5 cells. Differently to ORP5, ORP8 knockdown

did not induce cell senescence (Fig. 9c). Taken together, these data reveal a novel

specific role of ORP5, involving SAM50, in regulating the cellular senescence in

MRC5 cells.

DISCUSSION

In this study, by using a combination of *in vitro* and *in situ* biochemical and imaging approaches, we describe a new function of ORP5/8 in the maintenance of mitochondrial levels of PE, an essential phospholipid of mitochondria, in mammalian cells. Importantly, we provide the first evidence of LTPs (ORP5 and ORP8) directly mediating non-vesicular transfer of PS at ER-mitochondria contact sites, from the ER to the mitochondria where it is converted into PE.

In yeast, large tethering complexes such as the ERMES and the ER-Membrane protein Complex (EMC) have been previously involved in phospholipid trafficking (PC and PS, respectively) between the ER and the mitochondrial membranes (Tamura & Endo, 2017) (Lang, John Peter et al., 2015). For instance, three subunits of the ERMES complex contain a Synaptotagmin-like Mitochondria lipid binding Protein (SMP) domain that forms a hydrophobic lipid transport cavity shared by other proteins of the tubular lipid-binding protein TULIP superfamily (Kopec, Alva et al., 2010, Reinisch & De Camilli, 2016). However, a direct role (independent of its tethering function) of ERMES in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites is still questioned. For a long time homologues of the ERMES complex have not been identified in metazoan. Hirabayashi et al. recently showed that the SMP-containing protein PDZD8 is involved in ER-mitochondria tethering and in the regulation of Ca^{2+} dynamics in mammalian neurons (Hirabayashi et al., 2017). Although PDZD8 is a structural and functional paralogous of the Mmm1 subunit of the ERMES complex (Wideman, Balacco et al., 2018), its function in lipid transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites remain unclear. The EMC complex, which has been involved in PS shuttling at ER-mitochondria contact sites in yeast, is instead highly conserved in metazoans (Wideman, 2015). However, no lipid-binding/transfer domain has been

found in the EMC proteins, indicating that their implication in lipid transfer at ER-

mitochondria contacts is linked to their tethering function rather than to a direct lipid

transfer activity. Recently, the mammalian LTP VPS13A has been shown to localize

to contact sites including ER-mitochondria contacts (Kumar et al., 2018). VPS13A

contains a lipid-binding domain (VPS13α) that has the ability to harbor multiple

phospholipids at once and transfer them between liposomes *in vitro*. However, its

role in lipid transfer at membrane contact sites *in situ* has not yet been established.

Differently from the SMP and VPS13α that can simultaneously host multiple

phospholipids, the ORD domain of Osh/ORPs forms a cavity that can host only one

lipid at a time (Maeda, Anand et al., 2013, Wang, Ma et al., 2019).

ORP5 and ORP8 have recently been shown to counter-exchange PS with the PM

phosphoinositides PI4P and PIP_2 at ER-PM contact sites in HeLa cells (Chung et al.,

2015, Ghai, Du et al., 2017). However, PI4P and PIP_2 are not present on the

mitochondrial membranes, while PE is highly abundant in these membranes, in

addition to being an essential lipid of all biological membranes. Our *in vitro* data show

that the ORD domains of ORP5 and ORP8 transport PS, but not other phospholipids

such as PE and PC, indicating a specific role of ORP5/8 in PS transport and excluding

the possibility that ORP5/8 might also participate in the transport of a fraction of PE

back to the ER. It is possible that ORP5/8 cooperate with other LTPs, such as VPS13A,

for the exchange of other lipids (including PE) at ER-mitochondria contact sites.

Importantly, we have confirmed the role of ORP5/8 in PS transfer by measuring a

decrease of PS-derived mitochondrial PE in ORP5 depleted HeLa cells *in situ* (and

even more upon ORP5+8 silencing, although the effect of ORP5 depletion was

predominant as compared to ORP8) as well as a reduction of total PE in

mitochondria isolated from these cells (Fig. 1c-f). Accordingly, the knockdown of

ORP5/8 affects cristae morphology (Fig. 2a, 2c) and the respiratory function of

mitochondria (Galmes et al., 2016)(Fig. 2d), all phenotypes that are expected in the

case of decrease in mitochondrial PE (Joshi et al., 2012, Steenbergen et al., 2005).

Our data further confirm the essential role of PE in the maintenance of mitochondria

structure and functions, and are in accord with those of (Tasseva et al., 2013)

showing that even a mild decrease of mitochondrial PE can strongly alter

mitochondria cristae morphology and respiratory function. Our data also suggest that

the gradient of PS at ER-mitochondria contacts is sufficient to trigger the ORP5/8-

mediated unidirectional transport of PS from the MAMs, where it is highly enriched, to

the mitochondria membranes, where it is rapidly converted into PE and is therefore

present at a very low amount. Our findings have important implications in the general

field of LTPs, as they suggest that the same LTP can use different means to transfer

lipids depending on the local gradients present at the specific membrane contact

sites where it is localized. They also suggest a possible new function in PS transport at

ER-mitochondria contact sites for the yeast orthologues of ORP5/8, Osh6/7p, whose

localization/function at ER-mitochondria contact sites still remain to be addressed

(Moser von Filseck, Copic et al., 2015).

Another important feature of our work is the observation that ORP5 and ORP8

knockdowns do not affect the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites. These data,

consistent with our previous observation that ORP5/8 overexpression does not alter

the length of ER-mitochondria contacts (Galmes et al., 2016), confirm that the main

function of these proteins at MAMs is lipid transfer and not membrane tethering. This

is a unique feature among the LTPs that have been identified so far at MAMs. For

instance, modulation of the protein levels of other LTPs such as ERMES in yeast, or

PDZD8 and VPS13A in mammals, results in an alteration of the extent of ER-

mitochondria contact sites (Hirabayashi et al., 2017, Kornmann, Currie et al., 2009,

Kumar et al., 2018). Thus, ORP5/8 represent so far a unique tool to study lipid

transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites, independently of membrane tethering.

Importantly, our study also reveals that ORP5/8 physically interact with SAM50

and Mitofilin, two key components of the MIB/MICOS complex that anchor the IMM to

the OMM at the level of CJ (Huynen et al., 2016, Ott et al., 2015, Wollweber et al.,

2017). The biochemical interaction between ORP5 and SAM50/Mitofilin suggests the

existence of a physical link between ER-mitochondria contact sites involved in lipid

transport and intra-mitochondria contacts. ORP5 localization by IEM at ER-mitochondria

contact sites near the CJ, where Mitofilin and MICOS complex also reside, confirms the

existence of such tripartite membrane structure. Importantly, we also show that the *de-

novo* synthesis of mitochondrial PE requires both the lipid transfer activity of ORP5 at

ER-mitochondria contact sites and the tethering activity of the MIB/MICOS complex at

intra-mitochondrial OMM-IMM contact sites (Fig. 5b). Interestingly, recent evidence in

yeast suggests that, in addition to the classical PE synthesis at the IMM by the IMM-

localized PS decarboxylase Psd1, PE can be also synthesized *in trans* on the OMM

(Aaltonen, Friedman et al., 2016)*.* Thus, it is possible that this alternative pathway,

which requires MIB/MICOS tethering function to bring the mitochondrial

intermembrane domain of PISD close to the OMM for synthesis of PE, is conserved

also in mammalian cells. The cooperation of ORP5 with SAM50 and Mitofilin could

facilitate the movement of PS from the ER to the IMM across ER-mitochondria

contact sites for synthesis of PE at the IMM, through the classical PE synthesis

pathway, but also PISD function *in trans* on the OMM through this alternative

biosynthetic pathway. Taken together these findings provide the first evidence of a

physical link between ER-OMM and OMM-IMM contact sites to facilitate transport of

PS from the ER to the mitochondria and PE synthesis on the mitochondrial

membranes (Fig. 10).

Finally, we uncover a specific role for ORP5, but not ORP8, in regulating

mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake, via a SAM50-VDAC axis. SAM50, in addition to being part

of the MIB complex, is also the major subunit of the Sorting and Assembly Machinery

(SAM) that mediates membrane insertion and assembly of mitochondrial β-barrel

proteins (Hohr et al., 2018, Kozjak et al., 2003). One of the most abundant

mitochondria β-barrel proteins is VDAC, which forms a pore that allows the passage of

small metabolites and ions such as ATP and Ca^{2+} across the OMM (Colombini, 2012).

VDAC exists as three isoforms (VDAC1, 2 and 3) that share common channeling

properties. VDAC interacts with the IP3Rs located in the ER membrane via the

molecular chaperone GRP75 that links the two proteins together. The interaction

between IP3Rs and VDACs acts as a bridge to allow the transfer of Ca^{2+} from the ER to

the OMM, and then from the OMM to the mitochondrial matrix through the mitochondrial

Ca^{2+} uniporter MCU. Ca^{2+} release from the ER to mitochondria is triggered by IP_3

binding to IP3Rs upon histamine treatment (Rizzuto, Marchi et al., 2009). Here we show

that knockdown of ORP5 increases the protein levels of SAM50 and VDAC as well as

the levels of histamine-induced Ca^{2+} import to mitochondria. We also confirm that the

additional role of ORP5 in regulating SAM50-VDAC levels is not indirectly due to ORP5

function at ER-PM contacts as re-expression of an ORP5 deletion mutant that has lost

its localization to ER-PM contact sites completely rescues the levels of SAM50-VDAC.

Intriguingly, our data support the hypothesis that this novel function of ORP5 in

regulating levels of SAM50 and VDAC (and consequently mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake)

could be dependent on its direct function in mediating PS transport to mitochondria for

synthesis of mitochondrial PE. This is consistent with the lack of effect of ORP8

knockdown (that alone does not induce a significant decrease in mitochondrial PE) on

SAM50-VDAC and mitochondrial Ca^{2+} levels and with the increase in SAM50-VDAC

levels in cells knocked down for PISD, the enzyme that converts PS in PE on

mitochondria. The present data are also in accord with a previous work showing that

lack of mitochondrial PE by depleting Psd1/2 in yeast induced stabilization and even

appearance of higher forms of respiratory chain supercomplexes (Bottinger, Horvath

et al., 2012). Importantly, double-knockdown of ORP5 and VDAC rescues the

mitochondrial Ca^{2+} increase induced by ORP5 silencing, confirming that this increase in

Ca^{2+} is indeed VDAC-dependent. Mitochondrial membrane potential has been proposed

to influence VDAC open-closed state and consequently import of Ca^{2+} to mitochondria

(Tan & Colombini, 2007). However, we did not detect any alteration in mitochondria

membrane potential in ORP5 knockdown cells, supporting our idea that the increase in

mitochondrial Ca^{2+} observed in ORP5-silenced cells results from the increase in VDAC

protein levels. This is also in accord with previous studies showing that the

overexpression of VDAC in HeLa cells enhances mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake upon

histamine treatment (Rapizzi et al., 2002). Our data also indicate that the effect of

VDAC accumulation on mitochondrial Ca^{2+} fluxes does not depend on the modification

of ER Ca^{2+} storage or release. Indeed, we observed a similar decrease of ER Ca^{2+} in

ORP5 depleted and control cells, upon histamine treatment. Our results correlate well

with those of others (Rapizzi et al., 2002) who also observed a similar decrease of ER

Ca^{2+} in VDAC-overexpressing and control cells.

Accumulation of Ca^{2+} in mitochondria, induced by release of Ca^{2+} from the ER

through IP3R channel, was recently shown to be involved in cellular senescence in

normal cells (Martin & Bernard, 2018, Wiel et al., 2014). Interestingly, we found that

knockdown of ORP5, but not ORP8, induces cellular senescence in MCR5 cells.

These findings are highly relevant because ORP5 overexpression has been

associated with several tumors (Du, Turner et al., 2017). We also show that double-

knockdown of ORP5 and SAM50 restores the levels of VDAC protein, as well as of

mitochondrial Ca^{2+}, and enables cells to escape the senescence induced by ORP5

depletion. These data confirm that all the above phenotypes are dependent on SAM50,

and possibly on its known role in the biogenesis of VDAC (Hohr et al., 2018). Future

studies are required to further dissect the mechanisms underlying the role of ORP5 in

modulating SAM50 protein levels in mitochondria.

In conclusion, our data reveal that: 1) ORP5/8 constitute the molecular machinery

mediating PS transfer at ER-mitochondria contact sites but not ER-mitochondria

tethering; 2) ER-mitochondria contacts where ORP5/8 localize are physically associated

with intra-mitochondrial contacts to facilitate the transport of PS from the ER to

mitochondria membranes; 3) ORP5 plays a novel specific role in regulating

mitochondrial Ca^{2+} fluxes at ER-mitochondria contact sites via SAM50/VDAC (Fig. 8)

and cellular senescence in MCR5 cells. Our study uncovers a novel link between lipid

and Ca^{2+} transport at ER-mitochondria contact sites and provides a first molecular clue

on how lipids are transported at ER-mitochondria contact sites. Furthermore, we

reveal a specific role of ORP5 in regulating mitochondrial Ca^{2+} homeostasis and

cellular senescence in mammalian cells.

METHODS

Cell culture, siRNA and transfection.

HeLa cells were cultured in DMEM (Life Technologies) containing GlutaMax (Life Technologies) and supplemented with 10% FBS (Life Technologies) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Life Technologies) at 37°C and 5% CO_2. Transfection of plasmids and siRNA oligos (Dharmacon, GE Healthcare) was carried out with lipofectamine 2000 and oligofectamine (Life Technologies) according to manufacturer's instructions.

For senescence studies, MRC5 normal human fibroblasts (ATCC) were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Life Technologies) containing GlutaMax (Life Technologies) and supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma-Aldrich) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Life Technologies). MRC5 were transfected with siRNAs using Dharmafect 1 transfection reagent according to manufacturer's instructions (Dharmacon, GE Healthcare).

siRNAs oligonucleotides

For knockdowns, HeLa cells were transfected with siRNA oligos by using oligofectamine (Life Technologies) and cultured for 48 hours prior to analysis.

For senescence studies, MRC5 cells were transfected with siRNAs using Dharmafect 1 transfection reagent according to manufacturer's instructions (Dharmacon, GE Healthcare).

Double-stranded siRNAs were derived from the following references:

siRNA	Company, Reference
OSBPL8	Dharmacon, J-009508-06 (Galmes et al., 2016)
OSBPL8	Dharmacon, J-009508-05 (Galmes et al., 2016)

OSBPL5	Dharmacon, J-009274-10 (Galmes et al., 2016)
OSBPL5	Dharmacon, J-009274-11 (Galmes et al., 2016)
SAMM50	Dharmacon, J-017871-18
SAMM50	Dharmacon, J-017871-19
Non-targeting	Dharmacon, D-001810-10
hVDAC1	5'-AAGCGGGAGCACATTAACCTG-3' (De Stefani, Bononi et al., 2012)
hVDAC2	5'-AAGGATGATCTCAACAAGAGC-3' (De Stefani et al., 2012)
VDAC3	5'-AAGGGTGGCTTGCTGGCTATC-3' (De Stefani et al., 2012)
siMitofilin	5'-AAUUGCUGGAGCUGGCCUUTT-3' (John, Shang et al., 2005)
siPISD	5'-GGAAGGGAAUGAGCUCUAUCACU-3' (si PISD "C" Origene)

Plasmids and cDNA clones

EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH, EGFP-ORP8ΔPH, EGFP-

ORP5ΔORD and EGFP-ORP5ΔTM were described in (Galmes et al., 2016).

The following reagents were kind gifts: GFP-Sec61β from T. Rapoport (Harward

University)(Shibata, Voss et al., 2008), 2mt RP ratiometric Pericam from Paolo

Pinton (University of Ferrara) (Filippin, Abad et al., 2005); ssHRP-KDEL from T.

Schikorski (Schikorski, Young et al., 2007); GST-ORD8 (ORD ORP8, corresponding

to aa 328-767) from P. De Camilli (Chung et al., 2015). GECO constructs were from

Robert Campbell (Addgene: CMV-R-GECO1 # 32444, CMV-mito-R-GECO1 # 46021,

CMV-ER-LAR-GECO1 # 61244, CMV-mito-LAR-GECO1.2 # 61245).

Cloning of HA-ORP5, HA-SAM50, Mitofilin-GFP, GST- ORD5 (ORD ORP5) and

EGFP-ORP5is2

cDNAs of ORP5 (full-length), SAM50 (full-lenght), Mitoflin (full-length from FLAG-

mitofilin (Ott et al., 2015)) and GST-ORD5 (corresponding to aa 265-703), were

amplified by PCR. In all PCR reactions, Herculase II fusion DNA polymerase

(Agilent) was used. Primers used were (coding sequence shown in lowercase):

5' AgeI-HA-ORP5_Fw GGCGGC *ACCGGT* cgccacc ATGTACCCATACGATGTTCCA

GATTACGCT atgaaggaggaggccttcctc

3' XhoI-STOP-ORP5_Rv GGC *CTCGAG* ctatttgaggatgtggttaatg

5' AgeI-SAMM50_Fw GGCGGC *ACCGGT*cgccaccatggggactgtgcacgcccggagtttg 3'

5' XhoI-STOP-HA-SAMM50_Rv GGC*CTCGAG*ctaAGCGTAATCTGGAACATCGTAT

GGGTAcaggaaccttatcccagctccaaac 3'

5' KpnI-Mitofilin_Fw AGACCCAAGCTT *GGTACC* atg

3' BamHI-GC-Mitofilin_Rv GTAATC *GGATTC* GC ctctggct

5' SalI-TC-ORD5_Fw GCACAG GTCGAC TC gagacccctggggccccggt

3' NotI-STOP-ORD5_Rv GCACA *GCGGCCGC* ctactgtggccggagggctggtcg

For the HA-ORP5 cloning the PCR product (carrying the HA tag at the N-terminus of

ORP5) was ligated between AgeI and XhoI in the pEGFP-C1 vector (Clontech) and

replacing the GFP- with the HA-tag. For the SAMM50-HA cloning the PCR product

(carrying the HA tag at the C-terminus of SAM50) was ligated between AgeI and

XhoI in the pEGFP-C1 vector (Clontech) and replacing the GFP- with the HA-tag. For

the other clonings the PCR products were ligated between KpnI and BamHI for

Mitofilin, and between SalI and NotI for ORD5, in the pEGFP-N1 vector (Clontech) to

generate Mitofilin-EGFP or in the pGEX-6P-1 to generate GST-ORD5.

The ORP5is2, carrying a deletion (residues 134-201) in the PH domain, was

generated by sites directed mutagenesis using the following primers: sense 5'-

tggctgacagcctgaagggccccaaagg-3' and antisense 5'-cctttggggcccttcaggctgtcagcca-3'.

PCR was carried out using PFU ultra high fidelity (Agilent), followed by 5 hrs

digestion with DpnI.

mRNA analyses by quantitative reverse transcriptase PCR (qPCR)

Total RNA was isolated from HeLa cells transfected with siRNAs for 48 hours as

described above, by using a Purelink™ kit (Ambion/Thermo Scientific, Foster City,

CA). The RNA (0.5 μg per specimen) was reverse transcribed with a SuperScript

VILO™ cDNA synthesis kit (Invitrogen/Thermo Scientific, Carlsbad, CA) according to

the manufacturer's protocol. Quantification of the mRNAs of interest was carried out

on a Roche Lightcycler™ 480 II instrument by using SYBR-Green I Master mix

(Roche, Basel, Switzerland) and primers specified in Table SX. Succinate

dehydrogenase complex. subunit A, the mRNA of which remained markedly stable

under the present conditions, was employed as a reference housekeeping mRNA.

Relative mRNA levels were calculated by using the $-\Delta\Delta Ct$ method.

Sequences of the primers used for qPCR:

mRNA	Sequence 5'-3'
SDHA* (housekeeping)	Fw: CATGCTGCCGTGTTCCGTGTGGG
	Rv: GGACAGGGTGTGCTTCCTCCAGTGCTCC
ORP5	Fw: GTGCCGCTGGAGGAGCAGAC
	Rv: AGGGGCTGTGGTCCTCGTATC
SAMM50	Fw: CAAGTGGACCTGATTTTGGAGG
	Rv: AGACGGAGCAATTTTTCACGG
Mitofilin	Fw: GTTGTATCTCAGTATCATGAGCTGG
	Rv: GTTCAGCTGATCAATACGACGA
VDAC1	Fw: ACGTATGCCGATCTTGGCAAA
	Rv: TCAGGCCGTACTCAGTCCATC
VDAC2	Fw: GCTACAGGACTGGGGACTTC
	Rv: AATGCCAAAACGAGTGCAGTT

VDAC3	Fw: GTAAATAATGCCAGCCTGATTG
	Rv: CTTCCAGGGACAAATCTGATG

*succinate dehydrogenase complex, subunit A

For senescence studies, MCR5 cells RNAs were extracted using RNA Extracol lysis

buffer (Dutscher). cDNAs were synthesized from total RNA using the Maxima first

strand cDNA synthesis kit (Life Technologies). Quantitative PCR mixture contained

cDNA, TaqMan mix (Roche), 100 µM of a Universal Probe Library probe (Roche) and

200 nM of primers (Sigma-Aldrich) according to manufacturer's instructions. qPCRs

were carried out on a FX96 Thermocycler (Bio-Rad). qPCR reactions were as

follows: 95°C 10 min, followed with 40 cycles of 95°C 10s, 59°C 30s. The reactions

were performed at least in duplicate. The relative amount of mRNA (ORP5, p16, p21,

Ki67, PGK1 and HPRT1) was calculated using the comparative Ct (ΔΔCt) method

and data were normalized using two housekeeping genes (PGK1 and HPRT1).

Sequences of the primers and UPL probes used for qPCR:

mRNA/UPL probe	Sequence 5'-3'
CDKN2A (p16) / UPL 34	Fw: GTGGACCTGGCTGAGGAG
	Rv: CTTTCAATCGGGGATGTCTG
p21(CDKN1A) / UPL 32	Fw: TCACTGTCTTGTACCCTTGTGC
	Rv: GGCGTTTGGAGTGGTAGAAAT
Ki67 / UPL 32	Fw: TCAAGGAACTGATTCAGGAGAAG
	Rv: GTGCACTGAAGAACACATTTCC
ORP5 / UPL 17	Fw: GTTGTATCTCAGTATCATGAGCTGG
	Rv: GTTCAGCTGATCAATACGACGA
PGK1 / UPL probe 67	Fw: CAGCTGCTGGGTCTGTCAT
	Rv: GCTGGCTCGGCTTTAACC
HPRT1 / UPL probe 73	Fw: TGACCTTGATTTATTTTGCATACC

		Rv: CGAGCAAGACGTTCAGTCCT

Antibodies, dyes and reagents list

Primary antibodies used in this study were:

	Antibody	Company & Reference
WB	IP3R-3	BD Transduction Laboratories, 610312
WB	ORP5	SIGMA, HPA038712
WB	ORP5	SIGMA, HPA058727
WB	beta-Actin	Abcam, ab8226
WB	ORP8	GeneTex, GTX121273
IF, WB	SAMM50	SIGMA, HPA034537
WB	Mitofilin	Proteintech, 10179-1-AP
WB	VDAC1	Abcam, ab15895
WB	Cytochrome C	BD Pharmingen, 556433
WB	Total OXPHOS CV-ATP5A	Abcam, ab110413
WB	PDI	GeneTex, GTX30716
WB	VAPB	SIGMA, HPA013144
WB	PSS1 (PTDSS1)	SIGMA, HPA016852
WB	PISD	SIGMA,HPA031090
IF, WB	GFP	Roche, 11814460001
IEM	GFP	Life technologies, A11122
IEM	PDI	Genetex, GTX30716
IF	HA	SIGMA, H3663
IF	Cleaved caspase-3	Cell Signaling, 9661
IF	FLAG M2	SIGMA, F1804

IF	MitoTracker® Red CMXRos	M7512, Invitrogen
IF	MitoTracker® Deep Red FM	M22426, Invitrogen
IF	HA	SIGMA, H3663
IF	Cleaved caspase-3	Cell Signaling, 9661

Biochemical analyses

Western blot

For immunoblotting, cells were resuspended in lysis buffer [50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.2, and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche)]. Cell lysates were then centrifuged at 21 000 g for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatants were boiled in reducing SDS sample buffer and proteins were separated using 10% SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was carried using standard methods.

For Western blot quantification, bands of protein of interest were detected using ChemiDoc™ Imaging Systems (Life Science Research, Bio-Rad) and analyzed using Image Lab™ Software. All data are presented as mean ±SEM of three experimental replicates.

Immunoprecipitation of ORPs

HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-tagged ORPs were washed in cold PBS and lysed on ice in lysis buffer [50 mM Tris, 120 mM NaCl, 40 mM Hepes, 0,5% digitonin, 0,5% CHAPS, pH 7.36, and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). Cell lysates were then centrifuged at 21 000 g for 20 min at 4°C. Supernatants were then incubated with Chromotek GFP-trap agarose beads (Allele Biotech) for 1 hour at 4°C under rotation. Subsequently beads were washed in 0.1 M phosphate buffer. After extensive washes in cold lysis buffer, immunoprecipitated proteins bound to the beads were processed

for Mass Spectrometry analysis (see below) or incubated in sample buffer (containing

2% SDS) and then boiled for 1 min. In the latter case immunoprecipitates were

loaded and separated in 10% SDS–PAGE gel and immunoblotting was carried out.

Cell fractionation

HeLa cells ($100x10^6$ cells) were harvested 48 hours after transfection with siRNA

oligos and washed with PBS by centrifugation at 600 g for 5 min. The cell pellet was

resuspended in starting buffer (225 mM mannitol, 75 mM sucrose and 30 mM Tris-

HCl pH 7.4) and homogenized using a Tissue Grinder Dura-Grind®, Stainless Steel,

Dounce (Wheaton). The homogenate was centrifuged three times at 600 g for 5 min

to remove nuclei and unbroken cells. The crude mitochondria was pelleted by

centrifugation at 10 000 g for 10 min. To separate MAM and pure mitochondria

fractions, the pellet was resuspended in MRB buffer (250 mM mannitol, 5 mM

HEPES and 0.5 mM EGTA, pH 7.4) and layered on top of different concentrations of

Percoll gradient (225 mM mannitol, 25 mM HEPES, 1 mM EGTA pH 7.4 and 30% or

15% Percoll). After centrifugation at 95 000 g for 30 min, two dense bands containing

either the pure mitochondria or MAM fraction were recovered and washed twice with

MRB buffer by centrifugation at 6300 g for 10 min to remove residual Percoll and

residual contamination. MAM was pelleted by centrifugation at 100 000 g for 1 hour.

MAMs and pure mitochondria pellets were resuspended in Lysis Buffer (50 mM Tris,

150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.2, and protease inhibitor

cocktail) and protein concentrations were determined by Bradford assay. Equal

amount of proteins were loaded on 4-20% gradient SDS-PAGE gels (Biorad) and

immunoblotting was carried out. Pure mitochondria were processed for MS-lipidomic

analysis (see below).

Mass spectrometry-proteomic analysis

Mass Spectrometry (MS) analysis was carried out by the proteomics/mass

spectrometry platform in IJM (http://www.ijm.fr/plateformes/spectrometrie-de-masse).

Briefly, after washes with binding buffer, immunoprecipitations beads were rinsed

with 100 µl of NH4HCO3 25 mmol/l. Proteins on beads were digested overnight at

37°C by sequencing grade trypsin (12,5 µg/ml; Promega Madison, Wi, USA) in 20 µl

of NH4HCO3 25 mmol/l. Digests were analysed by an Orbitrap Fusion (Thermo

Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) equipped with a Thermo Scientific EASY-Spray

nanoelectrospray ion source and coupled to an Easy nano-LC Proxeon 1000 system

(Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA). MS/MS data were processed with

Proteome Discoverer 1.4 software (Thermo Fisher scientific, San Jose, CA) coupled

to an in house Mascot search server (Matrix Science, Boston, MA ; version 2.4.2).

MS/MS datas were searched against SwissProt databases with Homo sapiens

taxonomy.

Mass Spectrometry-lipidomic analysis

700 µl of homogenized cells were mixed with 800 µl 1 N HCl:CH_3OH 1:8 (v/v), 900 µl

$CHCl_3$ and 200 µg/ml of the antioxidant 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol (BHT; Sigma

Aldrich). The organic fraction was evaporated using a Savant Speedvac spd111v

(Thermo Fisher Scientific). Lipid pellets were reconstituted in running solution

(CH_3OH:$CHCl_3$:NH_4OH; 90:10:1.25; v/v/v). Phospholipid species were analyzed by

electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (ESI-MS/MS) on a hybrid triple

quadrupole/linear ion trap mass spectrometer (4000 QTRAP system; Applied

Biosystems SCIEX) equipped with a TriVersa NanoMate (Advion Biosciences)

robotic nanosource. Phospholipid profiling was executed by (positive or negative)

precursor ion or neutral loss scanning at a collision energy of 35 eV for neutral loss

141 (phosphatidylethanolamine (PE)). Phospholipid quantification was performed by multiple reaction monitoring (MRM), the transitions being based on the neutral losses or the typical product ions as described above. The MRM dwell time was set to 100 ms and typically the signal was averaged over 20 cycles. Lipid standards used were PE25:0 and PE43:6 (Avanti Polar Lipids). The data were corrected for isotope effects as described by (Liebisch, Lieser et al., 2004).

Lipid Transfer assay

ORP5 and ORP8 ORD domain purification

Escherichia coli BL21DE3 RILP (Invitrogen) cells were transformed with plasmids encoding for GST tagged ORP5 or ORP8 ORD domains following the manufacturer's instruction. Bacteria were then grown overnight at 37°C and used to inoculate a large-scale volume (1L). When the OD_{600} reached 0.4, cultures were cool down and incubate at 18°C until they reached O_{D600} = 0.65. Cells were induced by addition of isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside to a final concentration of 0.1 mM and were incubated overnight at 18°C before harvesting. Cells were resuspended in 35 ml binding buffer (1X PBS, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, Protease inhibitor) then 250 units of benzonase nuclease (Sigma) were added to the resuspension. Cells were lysed by sonication and the supernatant was recover after 20 min centrifugation at 184 000g and 4°C. Supernatant containing GST tagged proteins was incubated with 2 ml of Glutathione Sepharose 4 fast flow for 1 hour at 4°C under nutation. Beads were washed using a serie of wash buffer: 1st (1X PBS, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT), 2nd HSP-removal buffer (50 mM Tris pH7.5, 50 mM KCl, 20 mM MgCl2, 5 mM ATP) then cleavage buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT). Cleavage of the GST tag was realized overnight at 4°C using Prescission protease.

Untagged proteins were eluted with cleavage buffer, flash frozen and stored at -80°C

until lipid transfer assay was performed.

Lipids

1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (POPC), 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-

phosphoethanolamine-N-(cap biotinyl) (Biotinyl Cap PE), 1-palmitoyl-2-

(dipyrrometheneboron difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine

(TopFluor-PE), 1-palmitoyl-2-(dipyrrometheneboron difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-

glycero-3-phospho-L-serine (TopFluor-PS), 1-palmitoyl-2-(dipyrrometheneboron

difluoride)undecanoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (TopFluor-PC) were purchased

from Avanti Polar Lipids as chloroform solutions.

Liposome preparation

1 µmol of the appropriate lipid mixtures in chloroform solution was dried in glass

tubes for 10 min under a gentle stream of argon, and then for 1 hour under vacuum.

The dried lipid films were resuspended in 1 ml of buffer H (25 mM HEPES/KOH, pH

7.7; 150 mM KCL; 10% Glycerol) by vigorously vortexing for 30 min at room

temperature. Unilamellar liposomes were produced by seven freeze-thaw cycles (30

sec in liquid nitrogen followed by 5 min in a 37°C water bath) and extrusion (at least

21 times) through a polycarbonate filter with 100 nm pore size (polycarbonate

membranes from Avanti Polar Lipids). The liposomes were then stored on ice.

Lipid Transfer assay in vitro

The lipid transfer assays were realized with liposomes prepared as described above.

The donor liposomes contained 1% mol TopFluor lipids (-PS, -PC or -PE) and 2%

mol of Biotinyl Cap PE. The acceptor liposomes contained only POPC. For each

reaction, 25µL of streptavidin-coated magnetic beads (DynabeadsMyOne

Streptavidin T1, Invitrogen) were washed in buffer H and mixed with 25µL of 1 mM

donor liposomes. The mixture was incubated for 1 hour at 25°C with intermittent

gentle mixing. Bead-bound donor liposomes were then washed, resuspended in

25µL and mixed with 25µL of 1 mM acceptor liposomes and 50µL of buffer H or

protein (0.3 µM protein and 2.5 µM TopFluor lipids in the reaction solution). The

mixture was incubated at 37°C for 1 hour with intermittent gentle mixing. Supernatant

containing acceptor liposomes was recovered after binding of bead-bound donor

liposomes to a magnetic rack. TopFluor fluorescence of acceptor and donor

liposomes was measured (after solubilization with 0.4% (w/v) n-dodecyl-β-D-

maltoside, DDM) in a SpectraMax M5 plate reader (Molecular Device) equilibrated to

30°C (excitation: 450 nm; emission: 510 nm; cutoff: 475 nm; low gain). The

percentage of lipids transferred from donor to acceptor liposomes was determined

using the following formula: $100*F_{acceptor}/(F_{acceptor}+F_{donor})$. To confirm that

fluorescence was transferred to acceptor liposomes, a fraction of the reaction

supernatant – which has not been solubilized with DDM – was floated on a Nycodenz

density gradient. 50 µL of supernatant was mixed with 100 µL of buffer H and 150 µL

of Nycodenz 80% in buffer H. The solution was transferred to a 0.8 mL Ultra-Clear

centrifuge tube (Beckman Coulter) and overlaid with 250 µL of Nycodenz 30% in

buffer H and 75 µL of buffer H. The tubes were centrifuged in a SW 55 Ti rotor

(Beckman Coulter) at 246,000 g for 4 hours at 4 °C. 50 µL were collected from the

top of the gradient and the fluorescence was measured.

1032

Radiometric assay for the conversion of PS to PE

Hela cells were seeded on 6-well plates and transfected for 48 hours with the non-

targeting, ORP5 or ORP8-specific siRNAs specified above by using Oligofectamine

(Thermo Fisher Scientific). The cells were then washed and shifted into Hanks

balanced salt solution (Gibco) supplemented with a serine-free MEM amino acid

mixture and MEM vitamins (Gibco), followed by 18 hours labeling with 2 μl/well L-

[^{3}H(G)]serine (30.9 Ci/mmol, NET24800, Perkin-Elmer)(Fig. 1e). In parallel

experiments (Fig. 1f) cells were starved in serum-free medium for 10 hours and then

treated with 1mM β-chloro-L-alanine (SIGMA) for 2 hours or left in serum-free

medium, followed by 1hr pulse with 15 µCi/ml of [^{3}H(G)]serine and 12 hours chase in

serum-free DMEM. After the labeling (Fig. 1e) or the chase (Fig. 1f), the cells were

scraped into 0.9 ml 2% NaCl per well, a 0.1 ml aliquot was withdrawn for protein

analysis with the BCA assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and, after adding 50 nmol of

unlabeled PS as carrier, the remaining 0.8 ml was subjected to lipid extraction by an

acid modification of the Folch method (Kim, Song et al., 2017). After drying, the lipids

were resolved in 50 μl CHCl$_3$ and applied on Merck TLC Silica gel 60^{TM} plates,

followed by separation by using CHCl$_3$-methanol-acetic acid-H2O (50:30:8:3.5) as

solvent. The PS and PE spots identified from the mobility of standards run on the

same plates were scraped into scintillation vials for analysis of [^{3}H] radioactivity. The

DPM values were corrected for total cell protein, and the ratio of [^{3}H] in PE vs. PS

calculated.

1054

Mitochondrial respiration assay

Oxygen Consumption rate (OCR) was measured using the XF$_p$ Extracellular Flux

Analyzer (Seahorse Bioscience Inc.). HeLa cells were seeded on a 6-well plate 3

days before the Seahorse experiment and knockdown of the proteins of interest was

realized 2 days before. The day after the knockdown, HeLa cells transfected with

Ctrl, ORP5, ORP8 or ORP5 and ORP8 siRNAs were plated in a Seahorse XFp 8-

mini wells microplate. 20,000 HeLa cells were seeded in each well (except in the

blank wells used for the background correction) in 180 μl of culture medium, and

incubated overnight at 37℃ in 5% CO2. One day after, the culture medium was

replaced with 180 μl of XF DMEM Medium Solution pH 7.4 and then the 8-mini wells

microplate was moved in a 37°C non-CO2 incubator before measurement. OCR was

determined before drug additions and after addition of Oligomycin (1.5 μM), Carbonyl

cyanide   4-(trifluoromethoxy)   phenylhydrazone   (FCCP,   0.5   μM),   and

Rotenone/Antimycin A (0.5 μM) (purchased from Agilent). After each assay, all the

raw OCR data were analyzed using WAVE software.

1070

Fluorescence Microscopy

Immunofluorescence and Confocal Microscopy

HeLa cells were seeded on 13 mm glass bottom coverslips (Agar Scientific).

Immunofluorescence was carried out one day after transfection. Transfected cells

were fixed with 4% PFA/PBS for 15 min at room temperature, washed in PBS and

incubated with 50 mM NH4Cl/PBS for 15 min at room temperature. After washing

with PBS and blocking buffer (1% BSA/ 0,1% Saponin in PBS), cells were incubated

with primary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer for 1 hour at room temperature and

then with fluorescently-labeled secondary antibodies. After washing with blocking

buffer and then PBS, coverslips were mounted on microscopy slides and images

were acquired on Confocal inverted microscope SP8-X (DMI 6000 Leica). Optical

sections were acquired with a 63x/1.4 Oil immersion objective using the LAS-X

software and fluorescent pictures were collected with a PMTs GaAsP hybride camera

(Hamamatsu). Images from a mid-focal plane are shown. Images were processed

and fluorescence was analysed off line using Image J.

1086

1087   **Calcium (Ca^{2+}) indicators**

 Ca²⁺ intake assay using Geco constructs

HeLa cells were seeded on glass bottom ibidi chambers (μ-slide 2 wells) 3 days

before imaging. Knockdown of the proteins of interest was realized 2 days before

imaging, as described above. The day after knockdown, 0.8 μg of GECO plasmid

were transfected with 6 μl of lipofectamine 2000/well (Invitrogen), according to the

manufacturer's instructions. The day of imaging, cells were washed 4-5 hours before

the imaging with fresh DMEM. Cell imaging was performed on an inverted Nikon Ti

Eclipse E microscope coupled with a Spinning Disk (Yokogawa CSU-X1-A1) and

cage incubator to control both temperature and CO_2 (37 °C, 5% CO2). After

excitation with a 561 nm laser (Coherent, 100 mW), fluorescence from GECO

constructs was detected with a 40X oil immersion objective (PLAN FLUOR; NA: 1.30;

Nikon) and a Prime 95B sCMOS camera (Photometrics). Images were captured

every 5 sec during 10 min. Approximatively 1 min after the start of captures,

histamine was added to a final concentration of 100 μM to trigger Ca^{2+} release from

intracellular stores. Image analysis was performed using Image J by measuring the

fluorescence intensity over time (time-lapse) of cells expressing the GECO

constructs. Histograms represent the response of the cell to the addition of histamine

shown as the maximum fluorescence (Fmax) after treatment / mean fluorescence

before histamine F0.

Ratiometric Ca²⁺ imaging using a mt-Pericam construct

HeLa cells were seeded on glass bottom ibidi chambers (μ-slide 2 wells) 3 days

before imaging. Knockdown of the proteins of interest was realized 2 days before

imaging, as described above. The day after knockdown, 2.4 μg of mt-Pericam

plasmid were transfected with 6 μl of lipofectamine 2000/well (Invitrogen), according

to the manufacturer's instructions. The day of imaging, cells were washed 4-5 hours

before the imaging with fresh DMEM.

Imaging of mt-pericam was performed on an inverted Nikon Ti Eclipse Eclipse-E

microscope coupled with a Spinning Disk (Yokogawa, CSU-X1-A1), a 40x CFI Plan

Fluor objective (Nikon, NA 1.30, oil immersion) and a sCMOS camera (Photometrics,

Prime 95B) with a binning of 2. Knock-down cells expressing pericam constructs

were imaged in a controlled atmosphere (37°C, 5% CO_2). For each field of view, a

time-lapse was recorded with an image every 8 sec during 10 min. Approximatively 3

min after the start of captures, histamine was added to a final concentration of 100

µM. For each time point mt-pericam fluorescence was collected using a 525/45

bandpass filter (Semrock) after alternative excitation at 405 nm (Vortran, 100mW

laser) and 488 nm (Vortran, 150mW laser). A perfect focus system (Nikon) was used

to keep the focus constant along the timelapse, the whole system was driven by

Metamorph (version 7.7, Molecular Devices).

All the image processing and quantification was performed using a custom script in

Image J. First, images were corrected for flat-field and dark noise using reference

images respectively acquired on a fluorescent plastic slide (Chroma) and with no light

reaching the detector. Regions of interest were also drawn on an empty area of every

stack to perform a background subtraction on every image. Then hyperstacks

containing two channels were registered to correct any lateral drift of the sample

during the acquisition using the Image J plugin "HyperStackReg (v05)" with the

"translation" algorithm. Once the stacks were processed, regions of interest were

drawn around individual cells, a threshold applied (Mean) and the mean intensity of

each cell recorded on each image pair along the time-lapse. For every cell the ratio

488/405 was plotted along the time and only the cells with a stable ratio during the

first 3 min time points and with a sharp increase observed after addition of histamine

were kept for the final analysis.

1139

Flow cytometry for TMRE analysis

Membrane potential studies using TMRE- Mitochondrial Membrane Potential

Assay Kit

HeLa cells were seeded on 6-well plates 3 days before TMRE detection and the day

after they were transfected for 48 hours with the non-targeting, ORP5 or ORP8-

specific siRNAs specified above. The day before analysis, the medium was replaced

with DMEM 10% FBS with or without 20 µM CCCP (Carbonyl cyanide m-

chlorophenyl hydrazine) at 37°C and 5% CO_2 to induce mitochondrial depolarization.

After 24 hours, 200 nM of TMRE in DMEM 10% FBS (Mitochondrial Membrane

Potential Assay Kit, abcam ab113852) was added to cells and replaced after 30 min.

Cells were kept at 37°C and 5% CO_2 for additional 15 min and then trypsinized and

resuspended in DMEM (1-2x105 cells in 500 µl). TMRE was then analysed by flow

cytometry.

Flow cytometry

Multicolor flow cytometry was conducted on Beckman Coulter's CytoFLEX S

cytometer. Analyses were performed using Beckman Coulter's Kaluza and CytExpert

software. TMRE (Ex/Em = 549/575) was excited by a 561 nm laser and detected

through a 585/542 nm filter channel. All acquisitions were made on 10 000 cells. All

data are presented as mean ±SEM of three independent experimental replicates.

1159

Apoptosis assay using Cleaved-caspase-3 expression

HeLa cells were seeded on glass bottom 13 mm coverslips in a 24 well plates. The

next day, 48 hours knockdown of the proteins of interest were realized as described

above. 2 days after the knockdown, cells were treated with 1 µM staurosporine or

with DMSO to induce apoptosis. After 4 hours apoptotic cells were analyzed by

confocal immunofluorescence, using cleaved Caspase-3 antibody and Mitotracker

red to label mitochondria. Cleaved Caspase-3 positive cells were quantified using the

Cell Counter plugin from Image J Software. All data are presented as mean ±SEM of

three experimental replicates.

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Senescence studies using SA-β-Galactosidase assay and crystal violet

staining

For SA-β-galactosidase assay, cells were washed twice with PBS and fixed 5 min

with 2% formaldehyde / 0.2% glutaraldehyde. Cells were then rinsed twice in PBS

and incubated at 37°C overnight in SA-β-Gal staining solution as previously

described (Itahana, Campisi et al., 2007).

For crystal violet staining, cells were washed with PBS, fixed for 15 min in 3.7%

formaldehyde and then stained with 0.5% crystal violet solution. After drying, plates

were scanned.

Relative cell count was determined by dissolving crystal violet in acetic acid solution

and measuring optical density at 595 nM.

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Electron Microscopy Analysis

Conventional EM

For conventional EM, cells grown on 13 mm glass bottom coverslips (Agar Scientific)

were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde and 2% PFA in 0.1 M cacodylate, 0.05% $CaCl_2$

buffer for 24 hours. After several washes with 0.1 M cacodylate buffer, the cells were

postfixed with 1% OsO_4, 1.5% potassium ferricyanide in 0.1M Cacodylate for 1 hour.

After several washes with 0.1 M cacodylate buffer and H_2O, the cells were stained

with 0.5% uranyl acetate for 24 hours. After several washes with H_2O, the cells were

dehydrated in ethanol and embedded in Epon while on the coverslips. Ultrathin

sections were prepared, counterstained with uranyl acetate and observed under a

MET JEOL 1400 equipped with a Orius High speed (Gatan) camera.

HRP Detection

HeLa cells expressing HRP-KDEL were fixed on coverslips with 1.3% glutaraldehyde

in 0.1 M cacodylate buffer, washed in 0.1 M ammonium phosphate [pH 7.4] buffer for

1 hour and HRP was visualized with 0.5 mg/ml DAB and 0.005% H_2O_2 in 0.1 M

Ammonium Phosphate [pH 7.4] buffer. Development of HRP (DAB dark reaction

product) took between 5 min to 20 min and was stopped by extensive washes with

cold water. Cells were postfixed in 2% OsO_4+1% $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ in 0.1 M cacodylate

buffer at 4°C for 1 hour, washed in cold water and then contrasted in 0.5% uranyl

acetate for 2 hours at 4°C, dehydrated in an ethanol series and embedded in epon as

for conventional EM. Ultrathin sections were counterstained with 2% uranyl acetate

and observed under a FEI Tecnai 12 microscope equipped with a CCD (SiS 1kx1k

keenView) camera.

Immunogold labelling

1206 HeLa cells were fixed with a mixture of 2%PFA and 0.125% glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M

1207 phosphate buffer [pH 7.4] for 2 hours, and processed for ultracryomicrotomy as

1208 described previously (Slot & Geuze, 2007). Ultrathin cryosections were single- or

1209 double-immunogold-labeled with antibodies and protein A coupled to 10 or 15 nm

1210 gold (CMC, UMC Utrecht, The Netherlands), as indicated in the legends to the

figures. Immunogold-labeled cryosections were observed under a FEI Tecnai 12 microscope equipped with a CCD (SiS 1kx1k keenView) camera.

Quantifications

For the quantification of the number of cristae junction in Epon sections, about 200 mitochondria were analyzed in randomly selected cell profiles and cristae junctions were counted in each of the mitochondria profile and reported as number of cristae/mitochondria profile. All data are presented as mean ±SEM of three experimental replicates.

For the quantification of ER-mitochondria contact sites in HRP-stained Epon sections, the total circumference of each mitochondria and the length of the multiple HRP-positive ER segments closely associated (<30 nm) with them were measured by iTEM software (Olympus) on acquired micrographs of HeLa cells for each of 20-30 cell profiles, as indicated in the figure legends. Cells were randomly selected for analysis without prior knowledge of transfected plasmid or siRNA. All data are presented as mean (%) ±SEM of three experimental replicates.

For the quantification of immunogold labeling on ultrathin cryosections, 150 gold particles were counted on acquired micrographs of randomly selected cell profiles at specific ranges of distance from CJ (0-50, 50-100, 100-150, 150-200 nm) in each of three experiments. All data are presented as mean (%) ±SEM of three experimental replicates.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

FG conceived and supervised the work. VO designed and supervised the radiometric

assays for PS-to-PE conversion and the expression analysis by RT-PCR. DT

designed and supervised the *in vitro* lipid transfer assays. DB designed and

supervised the senescence assays including part of the RT-PCR analysis. LR and

CS performed and analyzed the cell experiments including Ca^{2+} imaging. LR, AH,

and FG performed and analyzed the EM experiments. CS, AH and DT performed

and analyzed the *in vitro* lipid transfer assays. EJ, AA and AK performed and

analyzed the radiometric assays for PS-to-PE conversion. EM, JD and JS performed

MS-lipidomic analysis. RLB provided tools and techniques for Ca^{2+} imaging analysis.

JN provided technical help and generated some of the constructs for mammalian cell

expression. XM performed the senescence experiments. LR, CS and FG wrote the

manuscript and all authors commented on the manuscript.

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1267 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

1268 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Figure 1

Figure 1. ORP5 and ORP8 mediate PS transfer *in vitro* and at ER-mitochondria contact sites

(a) Schematic cartoon showing the *in vitro* assay used to study ORP5/8 ORD-mediated lipid transport between liposomes. (b) Donor liposomes containing fluorescent lipids (97 mol% POPC, 1 mol% TopFluor-PS, -PC or -PE and 2 mol% of biotinylated-PE) and pre-bound to streptavidin beads were mixed at a 1:1 molar ratio with acceptor liposomes (100 mol% POPC) in the presence or absence of ORP5 or ORP8 ORD domains (250 µM of donor and acceptor liposomes and 0,3 µM of proteins in the reaction solution). The increase in fluorescence in the acceptor liposomes, which remain unbound in the solution, was measured after 1 hour of incubation at 37°C. Data are presented as % of transferred lipid ±SEM and are the mean of six independent experiments. **P<0,001 (c) Crude mitochondria, mitochondria, and MAM fractions were purified from Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 siRNA-treated HeLa cells. Equal amounts of protein from each fraction were loaded on a 4–20% gradient SDS–PAGE gel and immunoblotted using anti-ORP5, anti-ORP8, anti-IP3R-3 (MAM protein), and anti-cytochrome c (mitochondrial protein). Mito, mitochondria; MAM, mitochondria-associated ER membrane. (d) Mass spectrometry (MS)-based quantification of the PE content (nmol/mg protein) of mitochondria isolated from Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown cells and of Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown intact cells. Data are shown as mean of three independent replicates ±SEM. *P<0,05. (e-f) HeLa cells transfected with siCtrl, siORP5, siORP8 or siORP5+ORP8 RNAi oligos were incubated with L-[^{3}H(G)]serine (30.9 Ci/mmol) for 18 hours (e). After extraction and separation of lipids by TLC, PS and PE spots were scraped and analyzed for [^{3}H] radioactivity, as described under "Methods". Each condition was analyzed in triplicate in each of three independent biological replicates. Data are presented as mean of PE:PS ratio ±SEM. *P<0,05, **P<0,01 compared to Ctrl. (f) Cells transfected with siCtrl and siORP5 oligos were treated with b-Chloro-L-alanine (b-Chl-L-ala, inhibitor of Ser-palmitoyltransferase) or untreated, then pulsed with 15 µCi/ml of [^{3}H(G)]serine for 1 hour and chased for 12 hours in serum-free DMEM, before analysis. n.s. not significant, **P<0,01 compared to Ctrl. (g) WB analysis showing ORP5, ORP8, PSD1, PSS1 and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either Ctrl siRNAs or with siRNAs against ORP5 or/and ORP8. (h) Schematic representation of non-vesicular PS transfer mediated by ORP5/8 at ER-mitochondria contact sites. PS is transported to mitochondrial membranes where it is rapidly converted into mitochondrial PE.

Figure 2

Figure 2. ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown affect mitochondria morphology and respiratory function but not the aboundance of ER-mitochondria contact sites

(a) Electron micrographs of HRP-KDEL-expressing HeLa cells treated with Ctrl siRNAs (siCtrl) or siRNAs against ORP5 and ORP8 (siORP5+siORP8). Red arrows indicate ER-mitochondria contact sites. Scale bar, 500 nm. (b) Quantifications of the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites in siCtrl, siORP5, siORP8 and siORP5+8 cells expressing HRP-KDEL. Data are shown as % of the ER in contact with mitochondria (mitochondria occupancy) ±SEM, n = 20 cell profiles and ±900 mitochondria; n.s; not significant. (c) Quantifications of the number of mitochondria with aberrant cristae morphology in the indicated siRNA conditions. Data are shown as % of mitochondria ±SEM, n = 20 cell profiles and ±700 mitochondria. **P<0,01 compared to siCtrl. (d) Mitochondrial oxygen consumption rate (OCR) measured in Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8, and ORP5+8 siRNA-treated HeLa cells. OCR trace was obtained by sequential measurement of basal OCR (OCR$_{BAS}$), OCR after the addition of Oligomycin, OCR after the addition of FCCP (OCR$_{FCCP}$) and OCR after the addition of Rotenone/Antimycin A. Note the reduced OCR in siORP5 and siORP5+8 cells compared to Ctrl siRNA cells. Error bars denote ±SEM. Data shown in the bar charts are the mean of 4 independent repeats (n=4). **P<0,01 compared to Ctrl.

Figure 3. ORP5 localize at ER-mitochondria contact sites near cristae junctions (CJ)

(a) Electron micrographs of ultrathin cryosections of HeLa cells transfected with HA-ORP5 or Mitofilin-EGFP and immunogold stained with anti-HA or anti-GFP (10 or 15 nm gold), showing ORP5 localization at ER-mitochondria contacts in close proximity to CJ (arrow) and the localization of the MICOS complex (Mitofilin) at CJ (arrows). Scale bar 250 nm. (b) Quantification of the proximity of HA-ORP5 and EGFP-Sec61β gold particles to the CJ. Results are presented as the percentage of ORP5 or Sec61β gold particles (n = 23 cell profiles) at specific ranges of distance (in nm) from CJ. (c) Electron micrographs of ultrathin cryosections of HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5 or GFP-Sec61β and immunogold labeled with anti-GFP (15 nm gold) and anti-PDI (10nm gold). Note ORP5 localization at ER-mitochondria contacts near CJ (arrow) and Sec61β localization to ER membranes not in contact with the mitochondria membranes (arrowheads). Scale bar 250 nm.

Figure 3

a Mass-Spectrometry Analysis

Protein	Localization	IP EGFP	IP EGFP-ORP5	IP EGFP-ORP5ΔPH
			Mascot Score	
ORP5	MAMs	0	9689	12192
ORP8	MAMs	31	930	690
Mitofilin	IMM	43	579	1150
SAM50	OMM	0	237	516
Metaxin2	OMM	0	32	175
RHOT2	OMM	0	131	119
TOM22	OMM	0	77	95
PTPIP51	OMM	0	76	73

Figure 4

Figure 4. ORP5 and ORP8 interact with the MIB/MICOS complex at ER-mitochondria contacts near CJ

(a) Identification of mitochondrial proteins associated to mitochondrial outer or inner membranes (OMM, IMM) that interact with EGFP-tagged ORP5 constructs by mass spectrometry. Note the presence of some proteins of the MIB complex: Mitofilin, SAM50 and Metaxin2. Interaction scores (Mascot scores) of Mitofilin, SAM50 and Metaxin2 with the EGFP-ORP5ΔPH construct are stronger than with EGFP-ORP5. (b) EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP8 or EGFP alone were transfected in HeLa cells then immuno-precipitated from lysates and analyzed by western blot using antibodies against GFP (for ORP5 or ORP8), Mitofilin or SAM50. (c) Confocal images of a region of HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5 (green) and stained with MitoTracker (blue) and anti-Mitofilin (red) antibody. Arrows point to ORP5-positive ER elements in proximity to mitofilin-enriched microdomains on mitochondria. Scale bar, 5 μm. (d) EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH, EGFP-ORP5ΔORD, EGFP-ORP5ΔTM, EGFP-ORP8, EGFP-ORP8ΔPH or EGFP alone were transfected in HeLa cells then immuno-precipitated from lysates and analyzed by western blot using antibodies against GFP (for ORP5 or ORP8) or against SAM50. (e) Confocal images of HeLa cells transfected with either EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH (green) and stained with MitoTracker (Blue) and anti-SAM50 (red) antibody. Arrows point to ORP5-positive ER elements in proximity to SAM50-positive mitochondria. Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm.

a

siCtrl
siMitofilin
siMitofilin + siSAM50
siSAM50
siORP5
siMitofilin + siORP5

ORP5

SAM50

Mitofilin

Actin

b

Radiometric measurement of newly synthetised PE

PE:PS ratio

siCtrl
siORP5 *
siMitofilin *
siSAM50
siORP5+siMitofilin **
siMitofilin+siSAM50 **
siORP5+siSAM50 **

c

siCtrl

siMitofilin

siSAM50

d

ER-mitochondria contacts

n.s.

Mitochondria occupancy (%)

siCtrl   siMitofilin   siSAM50

Figure 5

Figure 5. ORP5 and the MIB/MICOS complex cooperate to mediate non-vesicular transport of PS from the ER to mitochondrial membranes

(a) Western analysis showing ORP5, SAM50, Mitofilin and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with siRNA against Ctrl, ORP5, Mitofilin or SAM50. Arrow indicates the specific band for Mitofilin. (b) Radiometric measurement of PS-to-PE conversion in the indicated siRNAs. Data are presented as mean of PE:PS ratio ±SEM. Each condition was performed in triplicate in each of the independent biological replicates (n = 5 for siCtrl and siORP5; n = 4 for siSAM50; n = 3 for the other siRNAs conditions). *P<0,05, **P<0,01 compared to Ctrl. (c) Representative electron micrographs of HeLa cells treated with Ctrl siRNAs or siRNAs against Mitofilin or SAM50 and transfected with HRP-KDEL. Red arrows indicate ER-mitochondria contact sites. Scale bar, 500 nm. (d) Quantifications of the extent of ER-mitochondria contact sites in Ctrl, Mitofilin and SAM50 knockdown cells expressing HRP-KDEL. Data are shown as % of the ER in contact with mitochondria (mitochondria occupancy) ±SEM, n = 30 for siCtrl, n = 20 cell profiles for siMitofilin and siSAM50 and 1 000 mitochondria; n.s; not significant.

Figure 6

Figure 6. Silencing of ORP5 but not ORP8 specifically increases VDAC protein level in a SAM50-dependent manner

(a) Western analysis showing ORP5, ORP8, SAM50, Mitofilin, VDAC and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either Ctrl siRNAs, or with siRNAs against ORP5, ORP8, or SAM50. (b) Quantification of ORP5, SAM50, VDAC and Mitofilin protein expression in the indicated knockdown conditions. Normalized data are shown as mean ±SEM (n = 3). (c) Confocal images of Ctrl and ORP5 knockdown HeLa cells labeled with MitoTracker (red) and immunostained using anti-SAM50 antibody (green). Scale bar, 10 µm. (d) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of ORP5, SAM50, Mitofilin, VDAC1, VDAC2 and VDAC3 in ORP5 knockdown cells versus control HeLa cells. y axis: $2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ value represents differences between the mean Ct (Cycle threshold) values of tested genes and those of reference gene (SDHA). (e) HeLa cells treated with siRNA against Ctrl and ORP5, were transfected with EGFP alone or with EGFP-ORP5is2 (ORP5 isoform 2) and cell lysates following SDS-PAGE were immunoblotted with antibodies against GFP (to detect EGFP and EGFP-ORP5), ORP5, SAM50, VDAC and Tubulin. Note the rescue of SAM50 and VDAC levels in siORP5 cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5is2 as compared to cells expressing EGFP alone. (f) Western analysis showing PISD, SAM50, VDAC, ORP5 and Tubulin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either Ctrl siRNAs, or with siRNAs against PISD.

Figure 7

Figure 7. Silencing of ORP5 but not ORP8 increases mitochondrial calcium

(a) Pseudocolor 488/405 ratio time-lapse images of a representative Ctrl, ORP5 or ORP8 knockdown HeLa cell expressing mt-Pericam before and after histamine treatment. Scale bar 10 μm. (b) Representative curves of Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown HeLa cells expressing mt-Pericam showing the ratio of Pericam fluorescence before and after histamine treatment (+His). The change in the ratio of Pericam fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (R_{max}/R_0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, $p < 0.001$; n.s; not significant. (c) Representative curves of Ctrl and ORP5 knockdown HeLa cells expressing the GECO construct Mito-LAR showing the fluorescence before and after histamine treatment. The change in fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (F_{max}/F_0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, $p < 0.001$; n.s; not significant. (d) Representative curves of Ctrl and ORP5 knockdown HeLa cells expressing the GECO construct ER-LAR showing the fluorescence before and after histamine treatment. The change in fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (F_{max}/F_0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, n.s; not significant. (e) Representative curves of Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown HeLa cells expressing the GECO construct R-GECO showing the fluorescence before and after histamine treatment. The change in fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (F_{max}/F_0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, $p < 0.001$ and ****, $p < 0.0001$; n.s; not significant.

Figure 8

Figure 8. Calcium increase induced by ORP5 knockdown is dependent on SAM50 and VDAC

(a) Western analysis showing ORP5 and VDAC protein levels in Ctrl, ORP5 and VDAC siRNA-treated HeLa cells. (b). Representative curves of Ctrl, ORP5, VDAC and ORP5+VDAC knockdown HeLa cells expressing mt-Pericam showing the ratio of Pericam fluorescence before and after histamine treatment (+His). The change in the ratio of Pericam fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (Rmax/R0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, p< 0.001; n.s; not significant.   (c). Representative curves of Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP5+SAM50 knockdown HeLa cells expressing mt-Pericam showing the ratio of Pericam fluorescence before and after histamine treatment (+His). The change in the ratio of Pericam fluorescence after histamine treatment under each condition was compared (Rmax/R0). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, p< 0.001; n.s; not significant.

Figure 9

Figure 9. Cell senescence promoted by ORP5 knockdown is dependent on SAM50

 (a) MCR5 cells transfected with control siRNA or with siRNA against ORP5 were fixed and then stained with crystal violet solution (CA) or with SA-β-galactosidase (SA-β-Gal) staining solution. The graph on the top right shows the relative cell number determined by crystal violet staining. The graph on the bottom right shows the relative percentage of β-gal positive cells determined by SA-β-galactosidase assay. Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, **, $p < 0.01$; *, $p < 0.05$. (b) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of ORP5, p16, p21 and Ki67 in ORP5 knockdown cells and control HeLa cells. y axis:$2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ value represents differences between the mean Ct (Cycle threshold) values of tested genes and those of reference genes (PGK1 and HPRT1). Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, **, $p < 0.01$; *, $p < 0.05$. (c) MCR5 cells transfected with control siRNA or with siRNA against ORP5, SAM50 or ORP8 were fixed and then stained with crystal violet solution or with SA-β-Gal staining solution. The graph on the left shows the relative cell number determined by crystal violet staining. The graph on the right shows the relative percentage of β-gal positive cells determined by SA-β-galactosidase assay. Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM, n = 3 per condition, ***, $p < 0.001$; *, $p < 0.05$; n.s; not significant.

Model:

Figure 10. Lipid and calcium transport occur at the same ER-mitochondria contact site microdomains and are regulated by a ORP5-SAM50-VDAC pathway

ORP5/8 are directly involved in the transfer of PS from ER to mitochondria at ER-mitochondria membrane contact sites. This transfer occurs at the level of cristae junctions (CJ) where ORP5/8 localize and interacts with the proteins of the MIB complex SAM50 and Mitofilin. This interaction facilitates the transfer of PS from ER to the mitochondrial membranes at the level of CJ and PS conversion into PE, a phospholipid that plays a critical role in cristae organization and mitochondrial function. ORP5 is also involved in calcium homeostasis by regulating the level of VDAC *via* modulation of SAM50 protein levels.

Figure 10

Figure S1. (a) Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE of the recombinant ORD domain of ORP5/8 proteins purified in BL21DE3 RILP cells. (b) Results of a lipid transfer experiment performed as in Fig. 1 a, b and presented as the fluorescence intensity of acceptor liposomes before (top panel) or after (bottom panel) their floatation on a Nycodenz gradient to confirm that fluorescence comes from the liposomes membrane.

Figure S1

Figure S2

Figure S2. (a) Confocal micrograph of a HeLa cell (corresponding to boxed region in Fig 4c) transfected with EGFP-ORP5 (green) and stained with MitoTracker (blue) and anti-Mitofilin (red) antibody. Scale bar, 10 µm. (b) WB analysis showing GFP (EGFP-tagged constructs), Mitofilin, VDAC and SAM50 and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells transfected with either EGF construct (Control) or with EGFP-ORP5 or EGFP-ORP5ΔPH constructs. (c) Confocal images of a HeLa cell transfected with SAM50-HA and stained with HA antibody to detect SAM50 (green) and MitoTracker to label mitochondria (red). Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 µm. (d-f) Confocal images of HeLa cells transfected with EGFP-ORP5, EGFP-ORP5ΔPH or EGFP-ORP5is2 (green) together with SAM50-HA and stained with HA antibody to detect SAM50 (red). Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 µm.

Figure S3. (a-b) Confocal images of HeLa cell co-transfected with EGFP-ORP8 (a) or EGFP-ORP8ΔPH (b) (green) and SAM50-HA, immunostained with anti-HA to detect SAM50 (red). Insets show magnifications of the boxed regions. Scale bar, 10 μm.

Figure S3

Figure S4. (a) Representative EM micrographs showing the morphology of mitochondria in HeLa cells treated with siRNA against ORP5, ORP8, Mitofilin and SAM50. Scale bar, 200 nm. Red arrows indicate ER elements in contact with mitochondria; arrowheads indicate CJ; m, mitochondria. (b) Quantifications of the number of CJ per mitochondria profile in the indicated siRNA conditions. % of CJ ±SEM, n = 170-260 mitochondria, ***, p< 0.001; **, p< 0.01.

Figure S4

Figure S5. (a) WB analysis showing PDI (ER), VAPB (ER), CV-ATP5A (IMM), Cytochrome C (Cyt C, IMM) and Actin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either Ctrl siRNAs or with siRNAs against ORP5, ORP8, or SAM50. (b) Confocal images of Ctrl, ORP5 and ORP8 knockdown HeLa cells immunostained using anti-SAM50 antibody (green). Scale bar, 10 μm. (c) Quantification of fluorescent intensity in SAM50-labelled cells. Normalized data from three independednt replicates are presented. Error bars denote ±SEM (d) WB analysis showing SAM50, VDAC and Tubulin levels in protein lysates from HeLa cells treated with either SAM50-HA or an empty vector. (e) Quantitative RT-PCR analysis of ORP5, SAM50, Mitofilin, VDAC1, VDAC2 and VDAC3 in SAM50 knockdown cells versus control HeLa cells. y axis: $2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ value represents differences between the mean Ct (Cycle threshold) values of tested genes and those of reference gene (SDHA).

Figure S5

Figure S6

Figure S6. (a) Representative graphs of flow cytometry analysis of HeLa cells transfected with siRNA against ORP5 or ORP8 (n = 10 000 cells) and loaded with the mitochondrial membrane potential sensitive dye TMRE, in presence (right graph) or absence (left graph) of CCCP. Flow cytometry histograms are showing the relative TMRE fluorescence intensity; the average of three independent replicates is shown. Data are presented as normalized mean ±SEM. (b) Fluorescent images of HeLa cells transfected with siRNA against ORP5, ORP8 or control, treated with DMSO or staurosporine and stained with anti-cleaved Caspase-3 (apoptotic cells) and Mitotracker. Scale bar, 20 µm. The graphs represent the means ±SEM of the percentage of cleaved Caspase-3 positive cells in the different conditions; the average of three independent replicates is shown, n.s; not significant.